

MACLEAN'S

ON THE BRINK

**Iraq, NATO, and the
U.S. push for war**

UNCONVENTIONAL WISDOM

**Hershell Ezrin on why we may
get a minority government**

THE GREAT PRETENDER

**Brian D. Johnson talks to Chrissie
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MACLEAN'S

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SHEILA TO THE RESCUE

Copps will redefine the Liberal race. Here's why we should be grateful.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, a guy I know well faced a challenge when his boss moved on to other things. Quite a few people thought he was the logical choice for the boss's job—and were surprised when his company opted for a formal search process, in which outside candidates were also invited to apply. In the end, he got the job, despite his competition. Given that, some people wondered about the need for such a mind-boggling, expensive process—but this guy wasn't among them. The compensation, he told friends, sharpened his strategic thinking, and compelled him to reflect on whether he was prepared to make hard decisions. As a result, he felt much better prepared when he changed offices than would have been the case if he'd just been handed the job.

And that, among other reasons, is why Paul Martin and other Liberals should be pleased that he now has competition for the prime minister's job. Sheila Copps almost certainly won't win, but she will make things lively, in ways that should benefit almost everybody John Manley, who may decline his candidacy if his work (after he presents the new budget) will further add to the mix, although he faces some dilemmas that won't be an issue for Copps.

First, consider Martin. With an on-ice chic in the mix, and given the overriding presumption that he's going to win, he's been overcompensating in effect, against himself: the only way Martin can lose it if the taps or does something spectacularly dumb—is to let's say, in what, to say nothing at all. Not only has he had no incentive to be clear and precise in his policy declarations—he's actually had a disincentive, because firm policy statements are fair opposition. As a result, he's strengthened himself: far more in this week on the party's homepage, "a day (Martin) has to take responsibility for choosing policies rather than just commenting on them, his reputation will start to collect the inevitable barbs."

As well, as long as Martin was alone in the race, any position he took was measured

against that of Jean Chrétien, rather than as other challenges—on the odd occasion that he tried to present anything fresh, such as his plan to allow backbenchers to speak up more freely, he was presented as a dilettant. Now, with Copps stirring up his left in the mix, Martin has both an incentive and obligation to be clear on where he stands on key issues—and to be measured against another contender, rather than the present PM.

Copps, meanwhile, can show a wider audience the manner in which she's matured as a politician since the Liberals came to power in 1993. From her noisy Rat Pack days in the '80s, she's evolved into a strong member of cabinet and an effective watchdog on heritage matters, for Canadian culture. Her unabashed belief in free trade (she's leading) Liberal values gives her a loyal base of support within the party, and could help to staunch a flow of voters to Jack Layton's NDP, which now courts the same base of left-leaning urban-dwellers.

Then there's Manley. A Martin clone on many fiscal issues. That may be why he's worked so hard to distance himself from his predecessor in Finance—the para that he's asked off people in the Martin camp with his criticism. Manley's dilemma is not devoid of kind of race he wants to run, is he looking for a place as the Martin clone—in which case he makes his comments—or is he running, far out, to win? One consideration is the path taken by the Martin camp: show that if a convention were held any time now, the person in second place, after their guy, would be... Copps. That means she may become the bogeyman of both camps. This should be fun to watch.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

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BOSS
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'Are the lives of Iraqis any less valuable than ours?
The weapons of mass destruction are George W. Bush,
Ariel Sharon and Tony Blair.' —Alex MacBeath, Victoria

'Fighting for a fight'

As a child, I experienced and survived the horrors of the Second World War in Europe and have the thought of war and its accompanying casualties ("America on the verge," *Cover*, Feb. 16). Yet I wonder if Saddam Hussein will have to be stopped eventually and if stopping him sooner would be less harmful than later.

Dan Nichols, Green Landing, Ont.

There are other ways to get rid of Saddam Hussein. For example, why not a controlled bombing of the many poison that we are told the dictator owns? After that, CIA agents could invade Iraq with millions of dollars to buy off Saddam's guards and key members of his regime. Of course, this might prevent the Americans from using the billions of dollars worth of war toys they have assembled in the region, but it could prevent the slaughter of thousands of innocent people.

Leo Kurlandish, Calverton, Ind.

Must history repeat itself? Must the world suffer another holocaust because the UN and the world's politicians prefer to play their games? Have we not learned that appeasement will not stop a dictator and that giving in to his demands only leads to more? Whether or not Saddam still has the weapons he is accused of having, he did have them, and he did use them to murder thousands of his own people. He must be stopped now. Delay will only add to the carnage.

Hendrick Kutzke, Moscow

Sad though it may be, the impact on Iraq's civil population cannot be the decisive factor in whether to attack Iraq and depose Saddam Hussein. In that most despicable of regimes, non-violent forms of action will have no direct impact on the tyrant and his cohorts. They simply appreciate what limited non-violence has for them and use it for the military, regardless of the suffering of the population. That being said, war in Iraq means wrong, and we receive much better evidence than has so far been provided



by the U.S. and the U.K. There are numerous other unwary regimes around the world. Is the West going to go to war against all these, to effect "regime change"? If this is a good reason to go into Iraq, then for the sake of consistency the answer must be "yes." But is the world ready for that?

Gerard M. MacDonald, Ottawa, Prince, Alta.

It is unbelievable that American paratrooper Jesse Goy would say that about his fear of duty in Afghanistan—"I felt like I was doing something over there, but it was almost a peacekeeping mission. I wouldn't mind some action." Why are these soldiers itching for a fight? What is wrong with a peacekeeping mission? It is easy to think where the carnage comes from, and more scary that it could be passed down to younger generations who then won't think of killing innocents in the fight for so-called justice.

Kristen Herlihy, Calgary

I hope that many of your readers have noticed the cruel irony embedded in two of your articles in the Feb. 16 issue, "Suffer the children" (*Highland Daily*) describes the horrible fate of innocent Iraqi children, mostly malnourished, with many dying of parasites and other preventable diseases because Baghdad lack the funds for neces-

sary medications. But we also read in Peter Marshall's report, "A visit with 'Iraqi Joe,'" about how the country is full of billions of dollars' policies, some that make Baghdad look like a "dollhouse." How come, nowhere is your love, where most outrage suggested by these different, but inseparably linked stories?

Jack Gilve, West Vancouver

Is it really necessary to conduct a survey of 100 Iraqi children to discover that war will have negative effects on them ("Suffer the children"? The humanitarian impact of war is not a mystery. We should be paying the aid and education instead of unleashing the obvious.

Cybil Valente, Waterloo, Ont.

The caption, "Furious prodigies have become contraband in Iraq as leave the U.S." ("The new, new world order," *Cover*, Jan. 27), should have read "Are 512 billion barrels of Iraq oil worth a single tear on this little boy's cheek?"

Leslie Hochst, Montreal

No quotes about it

Bliss Sakata wrote that I am involved with a group of Jews opposing the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land ("The necessary position," *Politics*, Feb. 16). Somehow, the word occupation was put into quotation marks. Does Mark's subscriber believe that there is no occupation, and there are no Palestinians? The facts are clear: in 33 years of Palestinian occupation, Israel has used in violation of international law, human rights and numerous UN resolutions, and in doing so has corrupted its own morality.

Max Silverman, Toronto

Sua King heroics

I have been working as an avionics technician on the Sea King helicopter for three years, after having spent the previous 17 working on CH-113 Labrador on both coasts. In 1993, I was not pleased to hear of the cancellation of replacement helicopters. Sadler still was the loss of this of my aquatic career when "Buster 27" crashed on Oct. 2, 1998. For myself and those I work with, the Sea King replacement cannot come soon enough, as I am slated to sail with the Sea King in early summer as part of Operation Apollo, our anti-terrorism effort. The 39

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THE MAIL

hours of inactivity that Peter C. Newman ("Canada's dying coffin," *Column*, Feb. 3) reports that we do for every hour of flying the Sea King is preventive maintenance—it takes a lot of time to do all the oil spray and prevent the corrosion which the helicopter is subjected to, hovering over the ocean looking for enemy subs. I am grateful of the Sea King and all that it has done and is doing for Canada, but it is time to up grade so that we can move to make Canada a more potent force on the international stage. Anti-Americanism cannot be tolerated after what we and my Sea King commander ("There grows the lavender next here," *Op-Ed* John Thompson, 443M-6/30N, *Vancouver*).

The lethargy that grips our government in ordering new helicopters is almost beyond belief. Canada roasts the best, not the cheapest, on let's order the EH101 and if the Prime Minister cannot stand the loss of office, then let him leave as soon as possible. One would hope that the government has the wisdom to think about the survivors' safety and not just the price. *Bernd Oetwilek, London, Ont.*

As both a pilot and the commanding officer of the Sea King community, it is my responsibility to assure that the men and women who fly the helicopter have a safe aircraft. The government in which we operate is challenging and complex, and notwithstanding the age of the aircraft, we continue to make a valuable contribution to Canada's defence mission. While I welcome media coverage of the difficulties facing our community, sometimes the public comes at too high a cost, causing anxious bystanders for the families, relatives and friends of the aircrew, by suggesting that both the safety and maintenance of the helicopter is inadequate. Sensationalism only distorts the real picture of Sea King operations and downplays the outstanding achievements of the men and women of Canada's maritime helicopter units. They deserve better. *Col. David Martin, Commanding Officer, 12 Wing Shearwater, N.S.*

Who pays? Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's campaign finance bill promises only one thing for Canadian democracy—a stifling suffocation ("Dumb as a bag of hammers," *Editorial*, Feb. 3). I don't mind so much his declaration that per se is important, and that a ban on corporate or union campaign contributions is justified. But his legislation, which proposes that taxpayers pay for political party financing based on how those parties fared in the last election, is tantamount to political rigging. If the Liberals would give his Liberal party almost \$8 million, 60 per cent more than it would give to the official Opposition—the Canadian Alliance. But what really bugs me as a Canadian is that it would give more than \$2 million to the upstart Bloc Québécois. *Lorne Pearson, Victoria*

Everything I've heard promises me that Chrétien's party finance reforms would be a step toward better government. Certain, by corporations are donating money that belongs to the shareholders—and getting undulations in public expense. But most of the public owns shares directly or through mutual funds or company pension plans, it is certainly true that all shareholders would agree with the corporations' choices. The same applies to union donations, with the added complication that in some cases people are required to pay union dues even if they choose not to join the union. Chrétien's plan will reduce the perception that big donations bring big favours. *Robert Windley, Toronto*

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A new bill tantamount to election fixing

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her description of their sorry end as a country nation. We have abused these beautiful animals beyond belief. They were our incooperation, they took us into war, they were our legs, eyes and ears, and within decades of not needing them anymore, we misthreatened them. Finally, society would be a better place if we could still experience that wonderful bond that occurs between horse and rider. *Elizabeth McElroy, Burlington, Ont.*

Baby bust

We have always heard about the inability to conceive from the woman's viewpoint, so hearing from the husband was educational and eye-opening—to learn that there are men who cry and desire to be dads is cool ("My fatherhood dreams," *The Back Page*, Feb. 30).

Marlene Auld, Brandon, Ont.

In the story of the couple dealing with infertility, I was struck by one passage: "On some days, it would be easier if they found something that made only disqualified us from having kids. Then, we could just give up on adoption, rather than go through more frustration." My question to this couple, and to others facing a similar situation, is why only consider adoption? Why pursue risky and expensive treatments with a high risk of multiple births, where the likelihood of pregnancy and health problems is high, when there are so many children in need of parents? Why fight to lead to safe more children in an overpopulated world, when so many of the children already here are not being cared for? *Naomi David, London, Ont.*

Pedestrians of the world, unite

I would like to say amen and thank you to Jane Douglas' "Sidewalk rage" (*Over to You*, Feb. 3). On the streets of Manhattan, this is a constant problem. Rudeness and inconsiderate behaviour are legend. I usually walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and back during my lunch hour. I frequently encounter people walking toward those about in the other direction. They almost never move or, worse, rushed, rudely form a single file line to allow me to pass. So, when I am bumped into, I assert my rights and do not move out of the way. It is often a thankless task standing up for what is right. *Frank Weinberg, New York City*



What should we do when our neighbour goes to war?

- ☐ Offer our best soldiers
- ☐ Stand firmly by UN resolutions
- ☐ Send out an army of diplomats
- ☐ Sit on the fence

Watch. Then decide.

MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



A KEEN SENSE OF PLACE

For Atlantic Canada bureau chief John DeMont, there's no place like home. The 55-year Maclean's veteran (above) did stints with the magazine in Ottawa, Toronto and Calgary before returning to his Halifax birthplace and current base in 1996.

"No matter where I've gone, I've always been drawn back to the East," says DeMont, who wrote this issue's cover story on dying. "It's simply a great place to live and work."

DeMont, who travels extensively throughout Atlantic Canada, appreciates the "frontier feel of the region. It's still an elemental place with the sea and the mines—and that has remained largely unchanged over time."

He also discerns a sensibility unique to eastern Canada. "It comes from having a strong sense of community. Because this region has traditionally had some economic challenges, people who live here must be committed to it. They can't be lukewarm."

Moreover, he says: "Easterners are fiercely independent. They wouldn't go out on fishing boats in November otherwise."

Inevitably, some of DeMont's stories have personal resonance. He cites a piece on the end of coal mining in Cape Breton, where his family originated. "My grandfather was a mine inspector and my cousin a miner, so I had a historic stake in that one."

And despite their similarities, he says, each province is unique with strikingly interesting stories. "I love the diversity here. Whether it's about keeping the Gaelic language alive, the Acadian community, offshore oil, call centres or high-tech development, I continually find new subjects to get excited about."

Watch for more stories by John DeMont in future issues of Maclean's.

For further information contact: behindthescenes@macleans.ca

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THEWEEK



ScoreCard

A Red Baron
Canada's TV handyman was right: despite the economy, now what's the question? Years of chronic fiscal profligacy prevented Americans to build "safe houses" of tape and plaster sheets. Duct and cement a defunct addition even Canada can afford.

A Stella Caputo
Uses Tim Hortons donut shop to sell her bid for Liberal leadership to a party seemingly generations of difference. His splashes of support but christening may help her swing goodbye. Could take him, though, out of the mid-term vote.

V Lame the Miler
While African-looking men's lingering presence turns ducks at Vancouver's bid of host of 2010 winter into a 100% rate, IOWA's change tactics women with her looks is a no-no: Montreal's \$100,000 loss, it must be said, is a whole lot of pennies.

A Space safari
2002's basket ride for UFOs, with recent 400 Canadian astronauts "spacewalkers" in space, is a thrill of traffic, while P.E.I. means not a single visit. Maybe space tourists start with Anne Lau Lye. More likely replace an innovative parking of R.C. Italy.

A Canadian cricket
Team
Sings first-ever on an ancient World Cup, over Bangladesh. Just as Canada's rise as a team to show, we have a cricket team?

Sport | With the world watching, cricketers go to bat for human rights

In international sports, the political period is a much frowned-upon moment. Better to play games, it is said, to keep the door for diplomacy always open. But then Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe, current host to the World Cup of cricket, and also to democracy's brutal onslaught. This is the place where white farmers were forcibly moved off their lands by government inspired mobs. Where the mayor of Harare was recently arrested, beaten by police (he said) and held in jail for holding a civic meeting. Also, where opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai is in the midst of a high profile treason trial in which the man versus against him is a Montreal PR guy who, it turns out, was on the Mugabe payroll.

International pressure has been, well, spotty. Last week, the European Union re-served its sanctions against the Mugabe regime for human rights abuses but vacillated over whether he could attend a group

Ujous economic summit in Paris. In the end the summit was cancelled. England refused to withdraw its cricket team from World Cup play, though its members have fought a so far losing battle to have their match relocated to South Africa, not on principle but out of fear for their safety.

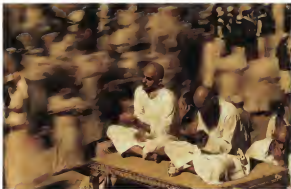
The staff of champions was left to two hometown heroes: cricketer Andy Flower, 34, one of cricket's best batsmen, and teammate Henry Onions, 26, Zimbabwe's star black bowler and an open singer of some renown. Their quiet decision to wear black armbands during the World Cup—"a silent plea," as they put it, "to show responsible to stop the abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe"—reverberated well beyond the games. As sporting protests go, it is up there with the black power salute during the 1968 Olympics, or Muhammad Ali's refusal to fight the Vietnam War. Black and white. Cleanse pills are a solution this clear.

Andy Flower and Henry Onions stand to be Zimbabwe's strongest men.



Quote of the week 1 'Not everyone around the world is prepared to take the word of the United States on faith.' Prime Minister JEAN CHENIERE in a speech in Chicago

¹Minimum investment of \$1,000 for RSP and \$1,000 outside an RSP for amounts within a RSP. Interest is calculated and paid monthly. ²Redeemable after the first year; redemption after the first year pays a penalty. A fee is charged when you sell the GIC before the end of the 5 year term. Withdrawal redemption interest is \$100 for RSP and \$1,000 outside an RSP.



THE HAJJ Muslims pray following a "stone the devil" ritual in Mina, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the third day of the five-day hajj ceremonies. A day earlier, 14 pilgrims were trampled to death in the same area when thousands thronged to cross a stone bridge. Authorities dispatched extra troops and ambulances to help control the estimated two million people who joined the annual pilgrimage.

WORLD

MINUTES The U.S. took its nuclear proliferation dispute with North Korea to the UN Security Council, in a bid to apply more diplomatic pressure to the regime regime for securing a non-nuclear pact. CIA chief George Tenet also told a congressional hearing that North Korea has ballistic missiles capable of reaching California.

India rejected a Russian developed cruise missile that can hit major cities in neighboring Pakistan. Both countries already have ballistic missiles aimed at each other.

TAKOUTS President George W. Bush's plan for an exit and a massive deficit cut aimed at Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who said it was not an appropriate time to stimulate the economy.

MIDDLE EAST Re-directed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held secret peace talks with Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qurei, and his officials followed the way with

more talks with Jordan. Following a peace "road map" advanced by Europe, the U.S. and the UN, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat agreed to appoint a prime minister to run day-to-day affairs.

SPACE New evidence in the crash of the Columbia, including the missing, often left wing and the remains of all seven astronauts on board, suggests a breach in the shuttle's outer skin allowed superheated air of roughly 3,000°C to enter the wheel well during descent. With the shuttle program grounded for now, a Soviet cargo ship took on the responsibility of boosting the International Space Station into higher orbit to keep from earth gravitational pull. The three astronauts on the station offered to stay in orbit a full year if necessary.

THE VIRACAN American astronaut charged that western pope Pius XII turned a blind eye to the Holocaust, the Vatican spokesman denies archbishops scholars for the post-war period, when Eugenio Pacelli, who became

Pius, was the Vatican ambassador to Berlin and its secretary of state.

CANADA

ON-LINE ADOPTIONS Alberta's decision to put photos, health and personal information on the Web about potential adoptees under provincial care was roundly rejected by the province's privacy commissioner. Frank Worland said the on-line adoption plan was insensitive and badly thought out. One girl in foster care discovered she was up for adoption when told by a classmate.

POURCES B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell faced three new charges in Hawaii for driving drunk while on vacation there last month. Failure to drive on the right side of the road, disregarding traffic law, making, and speeding.

Hanukkah's Sheila Copps became the first official Liberal candidate in the race to replace Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. She acknowledged her inexperience in the race, but

her finance minister Paul Martin, may discuss next week, along with current finance minister John Manley, under investigation by Ottawa's ethics adviser for creating leadership politics with his pre-budget report.

JUSTICE Ontario judges may reduce or tilt the sentences of black offenders if their crimes can be reasonably linked to systemic racism, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled. The court asked the provincial government to be reserved primarily for cases in which racial violence.

GAS PRICES The talk and a supply bottleneck combined to send pump prices to record levels, over the 80-cent-a-litre mark in most of Canada. Experts said the price might go as high as \$1 a litre in the event of a war. At the Toronto auto show, customers unveiled a new batch of compact cars, a turnaround from the Detroit show last month that was a pain in the horsepower.

CONSUMERS The latest 2001 census figures released point to an aging workforce that's increasingly female and in need of new work. On, and women will do most of the housework. By the numbers: a 15 per cent of Canada's workforce will be in 10 years of retirement age; a 20 per cent of women, but only eight per cent of men, spend at least 30 hours a week doing housework; a one million more drivers were on the roads than five years earlier.

BY GRAMME HOCKEY



Rod Brylman. But his restructuring plan is being criticized by MPs as a tax giveaway.

WRINGER PINE The family of Pte. Richard Gerna, one of four Canadians killed on a mission in Afghanistan last year, filed a wrongful death claim against the U.S. government. Transcripts of the preliminary hearing of the two U.S. pilots responsible for dropping the bomb can now be viewed at www.himbale.af.mil/fatalfire.

SCIENCE

LIVING LONGER A study of 52 Italians over the age of 180 found a significant number with a common genetic mutation that may promote longevity. The mutation was nearly five times as prevalent in the centenarians as in a study group of younger Italians.

ASTRONOMY Scientists using a high-flying satellite with powerful sound- and light-ranging instruments confirmed the big bang theory. They said the universe is 13.7 billion years old, give or take 137 million years, and that all the stuff we consider as matter accounts for less than five per cent of what's really out there.

DOLLY The ewe who turned the world on its ear six years ago by being the first mammal cloned from an adult sheep was euthanized for progressive lung disease. Dolly was mid-die aged by sheep standards but had been shown signs of an older animal.

Noted | Sign of the Times

Want to fight terrorism? The Public Service Commission of Canada has posted three positions for intelligence analysts in the fields of biological warfare, chemical warfare and radiological and nuclear warfare. "The successful individual will be part of a dynamic, interdisciplinary team dedicated to supporting the Department of National Defence with intelligence assessments of developments in various scientific fields that can be applied to create weapons of mass destruction."

The jobs are defined as "entry-level" opportunities and the pay ranges from \$46,462 to \$63,559. The recruiting notes is that candidates will undergo "Top Secret Special Access" security clearance. What's a little worse news is that Ottawa is only getting around to posting these jobs now.

Mansbridge on the Record



PEARSON REMEMBERED

The last time the world faced a crisis like this, a Canadian found a way out

IS THERE SOMEONE out there with a plan on Iraq worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize?

You'd think the members of the selection committee would be watching this unfolding crisis in somewhat the same way their predecessors did as they monitored the Suez crisis of 1956. This isn't Suez, but there are a few similarities. The most striking is the split over the use of force among traditionalists. When Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, Israel first, then Russia and France (joined, among other things, about their oil shipments), went to the military supporting the opposition of the United States. This time, on Iraq, France, among others, is demanding the United States and Britain back off from pulling the trigger.

In 1956, Lester Pearson stepped into what many feared could be the start of another world war and engineered the way out: a UN force—called at the time a “peace army” or “international police force”—acted as a buffer while a settlement was reached. As every Canadian should already know—or should know—Pearson, then secretary of state for external affairs, won the peace prize. He is the only Canadian so honoured.

So what would Pearson do now? When you read his memoirs, one quote jumps out. In the midst of the Suez crisis, he kept asking British officials this question: “If you had destroyed [Egypt’s General Abdel] Nasser, who would have taken his place, and would you be better off?” The answers seemed wobbly, at best. The same question today, substituting Saddam Hussein’s name, often draws a similar kind of response.

“He’d be building a bridge and he’d be doing it with blue helmets,” is the way Lloyd Axworthy, the former foreign affairs minister (now on the board of trustees at Pearson College), thinks Pearson would move. After all, unlike the Suez example, the UN is already in Iraq and it’s a matter, in Axworthy’s words, of “ratcheting up” that involvement by adding UN troops to the

weapons inspection in order to have them really run the inspection process.

Pearson’s executive assistant, Torrance Wylie, says his former boss would be quite concerned at what seems to be happening to two of the great organizations Pearson helped create—the UN and NATO. Pearson, says Wylie, would be focused on how to “preserve the institutions of our collective security.” Wylie’s fear, which Axworthy echoes, is that if the lights in the middle east continue, it could mean the end of what internationalists like Pearson worked so hard to achieve. In 1956, Pearson went to New York looking for a solution, and stayed until he got one, lobbying through many a night. Those who know him say he’d be doing the same sort of thing today.

Is there a major role for Canada on Iraq? That’s the tricky part, and involves one difference between 1956 and 2003. Then, Canada had no trouble taking an independent line, refusing to back Britain and France while looking for a different solution than the one posed by the United States. Times changed on Sept. 11, and even Axworthy admits that finding an independent line now is more difficult—though still not impossible. Perhaps that’s why trying to ratchet down Canada’s position on Iraq is such a constant challenge. One day, Ottawa appears aligned with Washington; the next, there seems to be a hint that maybe France has it right.

So what would Pearson do? In his 1957 Oslo acceptance speech, he gave a hint. Here’s some of what he said: “The best defense of peace is not power, but the removal of the causes of war, and international agreements which will put peace on a stronger foundation than the terror of destruction. However, we prepare for war like previous generations and for peace like retarded pygmies.”

John Mansbridge is Chief Communications Officer of CBC Television News and Director of The National. He can be reached at john.mansbridge@cbc.ca.

Passages

FAVORITE Toronto-based *Amadeus* (Khan) Khan, who co-hosted the 23rd annual Globe Awards, won best actress for her role in *Ararat*, directed by her husband Aram Teyyan. *Ararat*, a film about the 1915 Armenian genocide, took four other awards, including best supporting actor for Elia Kazan. David Cronenberg won best director (Teyyan was not nominated) for the psychological drama *Spider*, while the best actor nod went to Quebec’s Luc Picard for *Savage Messiah*.



DEED Dennis McDermott first joined a union in 1948, while working as a welder. 20 years later, he became Canadian director of the United Auto Workers. Later, as president of the Canadian Labour Congress, he organized the 1980 Padua (Pittsburgh) Hill protest against high interest rates—the largest rally in the country’s history. McDermott, 88, died in Peterborough, Ont.

NOMINATED Nagase, Ont., popstar Avril Lavigne leads the Juno Awards pack without nominations, including album of the year. The show, to be aired live on April 6, will be hosted by country music darling Shania Twain, nominated in five categories.

DEED Arthur Rossier, Maroon, a McGill University football star and medical doctor, was a gunner in the First World War. He also enlisted during the Second World War. Maroon, 103, died in Vancouver.

DEED As press secretary to Richard Nixon, Ron Ziegler was known for calling the 1972 Watergate break-in a “dumb-ass burglary.” Ziegler, who became top executive with national trade organizations, died of a heart attack in Coronado, Calif. He was 63.

WOT Quebec’s Milanie Turgeon, 26, won the gold medal in downhill at the world alpine championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland. Later in the week, Allison Farneth, 24, of Nantux, B.C., won the bronze medal in the giant slalom race. In Göteborg, Sweden, Winnipeg’s Cindy Klassen, 23, won the world all-around speed skating title.

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THEWEEK



Hockey | Exit the gracer

The latest maverick owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs is leaving. Preceded by the respectable Harold Ballard, Steve Stavro earned notoriety when he arranged to buy majority interest in the Leafs for \$125 million in 1994 while he was executor of Ballard's estate. That deal was held up when other shareholders and the Ontario public trustee argued that the new owner had underpaid for the franchise. The charities that were the Ballard estate's beneficiaries, in fact, didn't get a dime until after a long legal battle, when Stavro was forced to add about \$50 million to the purchase price.

With his Knack 140 Farms grocery chain losing money and finally closing, Stavro struggled to pay his share of the costs when



With Stavro gone, will new blue-chip owners pony up for the big Leafs run?

he and his partners in Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. bought the NBA's Raptors and the All Canada Centre in the late 1990s. He already owed millions to one partner, TD Bank, and he borrowed an estimated \$70 million more from a holding company controlled by billionaire Ken Thomson, who is part owner of Bell Globalmedia and its networks, including CTV and TSN. Raptors now claim that when Stavro

attempted to trade his shares to the media company to pay off his debt, other partners protested. They worried that the media company would use its ownership position to pay less for TV rights—a huge source of income for both the Leafs and Raptors. The deal went ahead only after the parties drafted new terms for a partnership which, under common-law trustee Larry Tischman, the chairman-elect, should be more unified than in the past.

Stavro can at least claim that, during his time, the team was better than under Ballard. Last season, the Leafs reached the Stanley Cup semifinals, and they may only be a top player or two from winning it all. But even talent comes with a cost, and ultimately, Steve Stavro didn't have the money to play that game.

JAMES BRIDGMAN

FRIENDS AND FOES

Both spell trouble for the U.S. push to war, writes JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

THE PHRASE has never publicly passed George W. Bush's lips, nor has it appeared in any official diplomatic communications, but watch how you just know the White House isn't displeased to find the French being referred to as "close-casting surrender monkeys" in the world's press. The untranslatable *shu-jin-jin-jin* capitulates at *taouan-jin-jin-jin* *quai-de-faouan-jin-jin* to be the best approximation—was first uttered by *The Simpsons'* inimitable groundskeeper Willie. Now it has become emblematic of growing U.S. frustration with both America's friends and foes—and the potent mix-rare of anger and fear that is now carrying the United States toward war.

"What we need is not more inspections, what we need is not more resolutions, what we need is immediate action unconditional full co-operation on the part of Iraq. What we need is for Iraq to disarm," Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state, told the United Nations Security Council after the latest report from chief weapons inspector Hans Blix. Saddam Hussein will continue to "decide, deliver, throw us off the trail" unless more direct action is taken, he said. "Force should always be a last resort, I have preached that for most of my professional life as a soldier and a diplomat, but it must be a resort. We cannot allow this process to be endlessly strung out as Iraq trying to do nothing now."

In a week that has seen key allies in NATO and the UN doing their best to frustrate U.S. wishes for a quick and easy path to Baghdad, domestic public opinion seemed to have finally snapped into fully-round-the-flag mode. Forty-three per cent of Americans now believe Bush has presented enough evidence to justify using force against Saddam Hussein, according to an ABC News-Washington Post survey. Sixty-six per cent of the U.S. public now supports military action, says a New York Times-CBS News poll, though almost as many would



The question is, how long will Bush and his allies give the UN and NATO to come around?

prefer that the White House wait until other countries align on to the cause. And the vast majority of Americans see now officially scored fear out of five respondents told the Times they believe another terrorist attack is imminent; 59 per cent said an attack on Iraq will make that threat even more likely to come true.

Recent developments, and dire warnings from both the U.S. and Britain, have raised those fears. America remains on a Code Orange alert—at "high risk" of terrorist attacks—and several missiles have been deployed around Washington. Acting on intelligence reports that al-Qaeda agents intend on bringing down an airliner have slipped into the U.K., the British government dispatched tanks to Heathrow. A new tape, purportedly from Osama bin Laden, advised Iraqis how to survive the coming air raids, coun-

celled suicide attacks, and incited Muslims to rise up against their "aggression, ungrat, agonistic ruling governments, which turn us enslaved by America."

Now that North Korea (owner of "one or two" nuclear bombs according to the CIA) now has a missile that might be capable of delivering warheads to North America (and further shores, though the U.S. arsenal of more than 35,000 such devices is rarely mentioned). And a recommendation from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that furnish take steps to prepare for a terrorist attack (and panicked Americans scrambling to their hardware to check flashlights, plane shopping and duct tape).

The world seems to be dividing into two camps, nations that are willing to go along with the U.S. now, and those that will require more black-and-white and diplomatic arm-twisting. The question is, just how long will Bush and his closest allies give the UN and NATO to come around to their way of thinking? "We don't think a second Security Council resolution on Iraq is legally required, but it would be highly desirable," Sir Andrew Burns, Britain's high commissioner to Canada, told *Maclean's* editorial board. "And our view is, that goal is achievable." Even with millions of people expected to attend worldwide weekend protests, the British government remained committed to clamping Iraq now, and by force if necessary. "We do believe that Saddam Hussein continues a grave threat to British interests," and Burns. Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations see Iraq as a potential ally and source of weapons of mass destruction, he added, "and it has become clear that pre-emptive action is better than waiting to be clubbed."

Despite the above rhetoric between the U.S. and its allies, most observers agree it is only a matter of time and some sort of follow-up bargain in track that will allow Bush



to finally remove Hussein from power. "America has significantly more support than its critics like to admit," says Patrick Hays, director of the Center for Foreign Policy Studies at Halifax's Dalhousie University. "The fact that 34 of the 39 NATO members are not falling in line with France, Germany and Belgium is what speaks volumes."

The international community is focused on U.S. priorities and concerns in a way that it never has been before. With the Bush administration making it clear that security against further terrorist attacks trumps all other issues, realpolitik dictates that the world's dominant economic, political and military power will eventually be placed. "Multilateralism is a myth," says Harvey.

Every single state involved in this conflict is operating in its own unilateral self-interest. The opposition of Germany and France has more to do with a battle for leadership within the European Union and the strug-

gles to remove Hussein from power than to veto his plan to bring down an airliner.

gle for a better share of post-war Iraq oil development, he says. China and Russia wish to limit the scope of America's inevitable victory over Iraq, and its repercussions for the world balance of power.

The diplomatic book-keeping will go on, perhaps for weeks, but eventually the coalition will fall into line. "It's better to be on the side of a policy that you're not enthusiastic about than to be completely marginal," says Harvey. "Now for these governments it's about figuring out how to do it so it's politically palatable to their domestic audiences."

A U.S. sponsored Security Council resolution on the use of force could come in early next week, signalling decision of the final push for war. And with American and British troops, planes, and ships contin-

ing to flow into the Gulf region, the deadline for the UN and its member states to sign on seems to be imminent. "Events aren't being decided by what's happening at the Security Council," says Andrew Bercovich, director of the Center for International Relations at Boston University. "They are really being driven by the timetable of deployments." "Don't hear, the phobias of the moon, tides, and local considerations will all play a part in the decision of U.S. commanders about the size of the window for launching a war. Bercovich suggests it will occur sometime between the end of February and the middle of March—but it appears to be a matter of when, not if. "The bottom line is, they are committed to removing Saddam Hussein from power and doing it soon," he says. "The gun is cocked, and a some point they're going to have to pull the trigger."

JONATHAN GATEHOUSE

'BRILLIANTLY MACHIAVELLIAN'

Chrétien has moved to appease both hawks and doves, reports JULIAN BELTRAME

JEAN CHRÉTIEN had a rough selling job last week. With the U.S. changing its mind to go on with the dirty work of forcing out Saddam Hussein and his regime, the Prime Minister travelled to Chicago to tell Americans just what the world thinks of them. He came as a friend, he explained—and friends speak the truth, no matter how unpleasant. "Great strength is not always perceived by others as benign," Chrétien wisely informed the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. "Not everyone around the world is predisposed to take the world of the United States on faith." Most of all, he added, the world is not ready to go to war against Iraq. Not as long as there is hope that United Nations weapons inspectors can achieve through peaceful means what the U.S. appears to believe can only be achieved through brutal force—destroying Iraq of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons technology.

Unluckily Chrétien changed many minds. But his message was also intended for a home audience. Despite months of walling about what part if any Canada might play in a U.S.-led "coalition of the willing"—without a specific UN mandate—there are growing Canadian fears that the country is being asymmetrically drawn into a dangerous military adventure. Talk of that is everywhere in Ottawa these days—in caucus meetings, in the corridors of Parliament, in the sixth-floor Centre Block restaurant where members scarf down lunch before daily Question Period. Would an attack on Iraq trigger war or a nuclear reprisal? Would the Middle East explode into further factional violence? Would the U.S. punish Canada if it refuses to join an unilateral action? Are there circumstances under which Canada will participate outside the UN umbrella? "That is a serious," Liberal MP John Bryden said. "That is something that our core beliefs to limit Canada and destabilize the world. It's already destabilizing the United Nations and NATO, two institutions we care very much about."

And the uncertainty, the Prime Minister is helping his home. Pressed repeatedly by the opposition to definitively announce a clear

position, Chrétien has lived on his shame and in the best tradition of the national apologist, nudged the pack endlessly. Canada, he insisted, "will be on the side of the UN, as we always have been." Yet the country also instantly supports the objectives of its best friend and neighbour, the United States. A second Security Council resolution specifically mandating war is "highly desirable," he told the House—but not essential. And he stood four-square with Washington in supporting Turkey's request for NATO assistance for protection against Iraqi missiles, distancing himself from France, Germany and Belgium—the staunchest critics of the U.S. policy on Iraq. But at no time has he consulted his government to participating in a war as long as the UN thinks inspections can work if more time is given—something chief weapons inspector Hans Blix suggested on Friday.

But while rhetorically Chrétien tries to hold fast to his war-and-peace strategy, he may have tipped his hand. In two near-foot-of-moat last week, the Prime Minister managed to lead over Canada mostly out of the Iraq quagmire while demonstrating clear support for overall U.S. objectives. The most significant was the announcement that a battle group of about 2,000 Canadian soldiers will be back in Afghanistan by summer for a one-year tour of duty as part of the UN peacekeeping mission. Defence Minister John McCallum said the deployment was not directly related to Iraq, but conceded "the more we send to one place, the less our help will be available for other places."

The minister's rhetoric was, as befits his economic training, irrefutable. But it was Chrétien's political calculation that drew most of the placards, from his friends as well as doves in his own caucus, such as Bryden, who would oppose any Iraq campaign unless specifically instructed by the UN. Bryden believes a key factor in the decision to return to Afghanistan—after pulling troops out last summer—is that it provides as the government diplomatically covers itself Ottawa decides to not act against Saddam Hussein.



Noting the chilly, even derogatory, reaction in Washington to the French and German manoeuvres designed to forestall war, Bryden said Canada would find itself in a precarious no-man's land if it is seen as opposing U.S. interests. "That way, we're like a conscientious objector in war who still risks his life on the front lines, but in a support, medical role," he said. "We're saying we want to show solidarity with the Americans, but now we don't believe in unilateral action, we'll help you behind the scenes."

Not that Chrétien has ruled out joining an unannounced war. Besides the Afghan troop deployment, the government confirmed that Canadian Commander Roger Gossard was named commander of Task Force 151, a multinational flotilla of, so far, nine allied warships with immediate and support duties in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman—an indirectly assigned role if Canada really was against unilateral action on Iraq. In addition, a group of 25 Canadian military officials were moved from the U.S.



command centre in Tampa to Qatar to prepare for possible hostilities. No big deal, insisted Chrétien. "Qatar is the same work we were doing in Tampa," he explained. "It's just that they've moved the people."

With the deployment, Chrétien has positioned Canada's major military assets to intervene in efforts for war if necessary, and for offering material aid and comfort to the U.S. if not. "This is brilliantly Machiavellian," said Bob Hucbert, a military analyst with the Centre for Military and Strategic Studies at the University of Calgary. "Chrétien has short-circuited every possible criticism from both the left and the right. He has committed, in a peacekeeping capacity, land forces to Afghanistan, and by the same token, he hasn't really cut us out of the upcoming war on Iraq by making sure we maintain good strategic relations with the U.S."

In fact, Canada's active war role will almost certainly increase if necessary, says Hucbert. Two Canadian frigates are part of Task

Force 131, patrolling the Persian Gulf and boarding merchant ships suspected of harbouring terrorists. A third may soon be on the scene—McCallum said the destroyer HMCS Iroquois would soon leave Halifax for the Gulf. If an Iraq war breaks out, those ships would likely serve to escort U.S. and other allied vessels closer to the war zone. As well, Hucbert says the Canadian Forces have been busy modernizing their fleet of CF-18s—about a half-dozen are close to battle-ready. They could join U.S. planes in an air campaign over Iraq, Canada could also con-

tribute weapons and commando units to the effort, and did during the Afghan war. "Yes, we are committed to the war in Iraq," Hucbert says. "We just don't want it known."

That sure Chrétien rarely. Recent polls show the Canadian public backs the prospect of American bombs raining down on Iraq civilians, especially outside a UN mandate, as much as the Liberal caucus. An Ipsos-Reid survey conducted in early February found 67 per cent opposed to unilateral American action, while 60 per cent would only provide assistance under a UN mandate. Unlike Bennett's Tony Blair, who has courted dissent within his own caucus and as popularity among voters by jumping early on the Bush war bandwagon, Chrétien has chosen instead to ease both his party and Canadian voters' path he may need to make, however reluctantly. Doing so, he has risked appearing indecisive. But so last week's move was not uncalculated, he has so far shown decisively—leaving a foot in both the UN and U.S. camps.

"Not everyone around the world is prepared to take the word of the United States on faith"

PREACHING JIHAD IN A PEACEFUL LAND

Militancy is on the rise among the country's Muslims, writes Adnan R. Khan

"**JIHAD IS COMING TO THAILAND!**" Abdul Nasir tells me, "and I'm ready for it. All Muslims must prepare for it." The call for holy war coming from a 21-year-old Malay Muslim living in Bangkok is joining the city's larger known for its go-go bars than its Islamic community. But in Nasir's view, the country of the jungle is Islam's mosque in the Bangkok district, surrounded by other Muslims dressed in a distinctly Arab way, there is a hard reality in what he says. "This land, which is majority Buddhist, has remained relatively calm since the religious violence that has gripped neighbouring countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. But now it seems, no place is immune to the growing tide of Muslim discontent, not even a country as supposedly benign as Thailand."

Southeast Asia is experiencing a marked rise in Islamic fundamentalism. Among other evidence, the United States and the West are viewed as the enemy—something tragically underscored by the Oct. 12 bombing of a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali that killed almost 200 people, many of them foreigners. Authorities say the plan to attack so-called soft targets such as tourist destinations was hatched on Jan. 25 at a meeting of Muslim extremists in Thailand—wholly may still be living bloodless. "I think there is a danger of terrorism in Thailand," says Anwar Shahman, director of the Institute of Islamic World Studies in Bangkok. "The feeling for jihad is definitely stronger after Sept. 11."

Especially in the south of the country by the Malaysian border, where Malay-Muslim separatists, divided from their co-religionists in Malaysia by an arbitrary border a century ago, have striven for their own nation. Recentment there has been rising for years now, in the wake of Sept. 11 and the subsequent start of the U.S. war against Iraq, against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan—not to mention the threat of war against Iraq—expresses say the situation is coming to a boil. Nasir, who is from the south, counts himself among those Muslims who believe the West is a threat to



Islam's Al-Azhar in his mosque (above) believes the West is a threat to Islam

Islam. "I was in Pakistan for the past six years studying Islam," he tells me in fluent Urdu, Pakistan's official language (I am of Pakistani background). "When I returned, I decided I was needed more here than in the south." He now teaches Koranic studies at the pondside-Thailand's version of the religious schools that are attached to mosques. "Jihad is our duty," he says seriously before heading into the green-domed mosque for evening prayers.

That militant message, which emphasizes a Muslim's duty to defend Islam even if that means taking up arms, is clearly finding an audience in Thailand. For the real story behind the new militancy, one Islamic expert advised, "you should head south and see for yourself." I set out for Bangko Kolok, the only town of any significance on the Kolok River marking the border with Malaysia.

Thailand's minority Muslims, numbering 2.4 million of the population of 62.4 million, are concentrated in the southern region. At first glance, there is little to suggest that the war on terrorism may be about

to find a new battleground here, amid swaying palms, rice paddies and rubber tree plantations. But the area's Islamic character is obvious. In Bangko Kolok, every evening is the first sign of light, the call of the muezzin echoes through narrow, empty streets and into bedroom windows, reminding people of their duty to God.

At the mosque in the heart of Bangko Kolok, the conversation quickly turns to the plight of Muslims around the world—and then against the enemy. "I tell you," says one of the dozen men seated on the floor, "if the U.S. attacks Iraq, Americans will have a problem here. We see them all the time, walking to the train station on their way to Bangkok. If Iraq is attacked, they will be in trouble." The others nod their heads in agreement. Most are Pakistani expatriates, ethnic Pakistanis from the northwest frontier area of the Afghan border, who arrived in southern Thailand on the contract of retraining Malay-Muslim leaders like Nasir. They have a strong affinity with the Taliban, its spiritual leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, and his failed attempt to create a so-called "pure" Islamic state in Afghanistan.

Muslim extremists like Osama bin Laden are household names in this region. There is mourning when reports circulate of an al-Qaeda fighter being captured or killed. The feeling is strongest in the more remote villages along the banks of the Kolok. My translator tells me that most of the more militant religious schools are there—away from the eyes of government.



It is a dangerous area, much of it under the control of smugglers and drug traffickers. As in the tribal regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the border separating Thailand and Malaysia is only a political division bracketing an older culture. People pay little attention to it, crossing back and forth as will. There are ponds on both sides, says Thai children cross into Malaysia for their religious studies, despite accusations by the Malaysian government that schools in the area are preaching hate.

Many villagers long on the banks of the river say that Islam is under threat. Outsiders are not welcome; persons appear to be widespread. "If we see a white person in Bangko Kolok," says one farmer, "we worry he may be from the CIA or FBI." He has built his own mosque and pond, so his children will not be exposed to outside in-

fluences. "They study the Koran here, close to the family—what else do they need?" he asks. "Everybody around here is angry with the U.S. They're Indians. Nobody wants their children to mix with non-Muslims so we keep them close to us."

Abdul Majid bin Ahmed, the imam of Kampong Bala, a small village nestled among banana trees, expresses much the same sentiments. "No Buddhists or Christians here," he proclaims with a raised finger. My own presence draws suspicious glances from the locals. Bangko Kolok doesn't usually venture into the remote part of the country and I'm the first outsider most have seen in years. (At a previous village, I was ac-

used of being an FBI or CIA spy and asked to leave by the local imam.) "Most of the Muslims here have gone abroad to study," my translator, a Malay-Muslim, explains. "Mostly to Saudi Arabia, but sometimes Egypt and Pakistan. They are highly respected for it and the villagers look to them for leadership. But I don't like it. They are too strict and never happy, those imams."

As the influence of the imams spreads, Thai authorities find themselves in a precarious situation. They must deal with international pressure to clamp down on extremism, while facing the possibility of violence if they are perceived to be interfering in Muslim affairs. But officials acknowledge they are nervous—especially over what is being taught in the ponds. "This denies us not in the government system," says Prongpit Khumkum, head of policy and planning for Narathiwat province in Thailand's southernmost region, "we do not control the curriculum, or even monitor what is being taught." Increasingly, those lessons appear to be revolving around militancy—raising the possibility that Thailand may find itself being the same violence that has already affected its neighbors.

Everybody around here is angry with the U.S. They're bullies. Nobody wants their children to mix with non-Muslims so we keep them close to us.



IS THERE A FAST TRAIN COMIN'?

Bombardier's new engine could rival air travel in populous corridors

ON AUG. 26, 2006, less than two years after winning a design and build contract with the U.S. government, Bombardier Inc. engineers were ready to test a sparkling new high-speed train. They rolled the red-nosed locomotive, dubbed the JetTrain, out of a hangar into the bright sunshine in La Pocoules, 350 km northeast of Quebec City, and, for the first time, started up the engine. "It was a big event," recalls Daniel Hubert, the engineer responsible for the project. They needed to be sure the fuel system delivered gas without sputters, that the start controls worked well, that the turbine engine didn't race and that the propulsion system could control the revolutions per minute. "Everything went well," Hubert says, and the marshaled arrival celebration. So did the train race? "The first day, no. We were happy with having it start."

To get to that stage, Bombardier, the Montreal-based corporate giant known more for planes than trains, invested US\$13 million,

matching an equal sum from the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration. The train runs on the same 5,000-h.p. engine as a Dash 8 aircraft, yet is quieter than a standard diesel version—the engine is contained in a super-insulated room. Its shaft—or platform, in the jargon—is the same as the Acela, an electric train built by Bombardier for the northeast U.S. corridor that, despite some well-publicized initial problems, is proving to be a major success story. JetTrain is the first non-electric fast train designed for passengers in North America. At 544 kg, the engine is lighter than a diesel—by whopping 17,000 kg. And it is at the front of a campaign to provide comfortable, convenient high-speed train travel in the populous and highly competitive Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto corridor. "We call it game-changing technology," says Lucie Steward, Bombardier's vice president of high-speed rail.

The idea of running a fast train in the southern Ontario-Quebec corridor is hard-

ly sold. At least three major projects have risen and died in the past three decades. The beauty of the JetTrain proposal, in proponents' eyes, is that unlike most other high-speed trains in the world, this one doesn't need new, dedicated track laid down before it leaves the station. Existing rails would need to be upgraded, but the work could be done in stages, with the train gradually increasing its speed as newer, smoother tracks permit. Instead of the \$12 billion that was required upfront in 1998 for a similar project called Lynx, the JetTrain could be launched at a fraction of the cost—and eventually make the Toronto-Montreal run as little as three hours. Downside, to be sure, that's about the same as flying. The train would be bought by VIA Rail Canada Inc. on credit, with perhaps a loan guarantee from Ottawa. All that's called for in this week's budget is funding for infrastructure to build overpasses and shore up rail beds. Advocates say the cost to get the JetTrain



rolling could be \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

For two weeks following Bombardier's first fire-up of the JetTrain in La Pocoules, engineers continued conducting stationary tests, ensuring all equipment on board functioned properly on power supplied by the turbine engine. Low-speed moving tests came next. From September 2006 to the following March, the train rolled around La Pocoules's small 1.5-km loop, reaching 90 km/h. Then the train was moved to a 22-km test track at the Transportation Technology Centre, a research and testing facility in Pueblo, Colo. Hubert, known to colleagues as the father of the JetTrain ("there were grandfathers as well," he protests), was in the driver's seat when the JetTrain hit 154 m.p.h.—250 km/h. "Even though it weighs 215,000 pounds, you feel the acceleration in the cab," says Hubert. "It's like sports car, you feel yourself pulled back into the seat."

Before the JetTrain really gets to show off that prowess to the travelling public, level crossings need to be eliminated. The signalling system needs work. Some new track would have to be laid. A deal will have to be struck with CN, which owns most of the track. Still, one of the toughest hurdles—getting the level-of-the-entire-entire—has been cleared. Transport Minister David Collier says,

To Bombardier's Steward, the train represents "game-changing technology."

a self-described train buff, flies regularly between Ottawa and his riding in Toronto. On his desk is a VIA Rail proposal for high-speed service in the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto corridor, which he calls "imaginative," and which envisions a trip of two hours and 15 minutes between his two cities. If it was available, Collier says, he'd ride the train, "no question."

There is also more recognition at cabinet to using rail as part of our long-term transportation strategy. Collier would have to agree, which is certainly something I am working toward, sooner rather than later."

The time is ripe for high-speed rail, says Collier, says. Congestion of the roads and security delays at airports make train travel more attractive. "People want an alternative." Already, the minister has given per-

mission to Bombardier to test the JetTrain on the tracks between Ottawa and Montreal. Trial runs begin next week. "We want to show it running on rails in winter conditions," Hubert says. In March, the train will be shown off in Toronto. Later it will go to Calgary, where Bombardier will pitch a fast-train link to Edmonton.

There are other hurdles. The competition—primarily the airlines but also bus operators—say government subsidies provide an unfair advantage to train service. VIA, a Crown corporation established in 1978, has always operated in the red. Its most recent annual report grossly boasts first revenues, rising to a record \$254 million in 2006, earned more than 60 per cent of the cost of running the trains. The remaining tab of almost 40 per cent was picked up by Ottawa. As well, in 2000, not long before Daniel Hubert named the JetTrain's "net" work, the federal cabinet approved a \$400-million, five-year commitment for rail infrastructure. "We are getting increasingly concerned that the level of government subsidies going to VIA Rail is starting to slow the market," says Cliff Mackay, president of the Air Transport Association of Canada. "Collective action is clearly flattening one mode over another. Quite frankly, that's pretty bad transportation policy. We don't object to competition. But what is really galling is they are doing it with taxpayers' money."

Lucie Steward's back goes up at the suggestion of favoritism. "The only transportation mode that doesn't require public government support," notes the Bombardier exec. High-speed rail offers consumers choice, the steps, and could free up congestion at airports, making space for long-haul flights. "There is no one-size-fits-all solution to transportation. You have to look at each corridor uniquely." She makes a peace offering, of sorts, to the airlines, suggesting air and rail could be integrated, as in Europe, with high-speed trains carrying passengers directly to airports. "It's not a question of either or, it's a question of serving growing demand and relieving congestion," she says.

To date, Bombardier's JetTrain has clocked 40,000 test kilometres—with no failures. Hubert, however, won't be satisfied with its performance and it's in regular use as a passenger train. Nor will its many backers. ■

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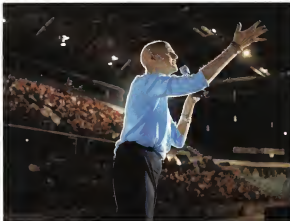
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Q&A | BARE TARBOS



'THERE IS NO PAIN GREATER'

Dying of lung cancer, an anti-smoking campaigner talks about losing it all

BARE TARBOS, a stay-at-home mom and one-time model, went for her annual check-up last year, feeling perfectly fine. The Tidewater native was anything but. A heavy smoker since she was 12, Tarbos learned at 41 she had terminal lung cancer that had spread to her brain and bones. She wasn't expected to make it to Christmas, but she defied the odds. Last week, Tarbos celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day with husband Patrick. It is expected to be the couple's last. Tarbos now spends her remaining time guiding school and tourism across Canada, making her passionate pleas to students and adults not to smoke. She told Senior Writer Danylo

Belon how her joyful existence "never, ever to take the path that I walked."

Blackburn about how her daughter MacLennan, who turns 10 this week, encourages her to get the message out. If you smoke, Tarbos tells audiences, be prepared to say goodbye to the people you love.

Tell us about your cancer.

I went for my yearly checkup. I felt absolutely great. People told me, "You have double the energy of a normal person." I didn't even have a cough. I had my yearly chest X-ray, and there was a little fine line. My doctor suggested double checking with a CT scan. I

have bronchogenic carcinoma. Lung cancer. They scheduled a lung biopsy. We had to wait four to five days for the biopsy to go to pathology. My husband and I walked into the doctor's office—it was a Thursday we'll never forget—we sat down and he said, "Bare, I'm terribly, terribly sorry. We're transferring you now to the Coast Cancer Institute. You have lung cancer."

What are your symptoms?

I have massive, massive headaches, I'm losing my vision, I'm growing weak. I can be walking and I'll just drop. I fall. I tell my body, "Okay, stand up," but it doesn't cooperate, right? I've lost 45 pounds in less than



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Q&A >

2½ months. My skin is cyanotic, which means purple, blue—my knuckles are black.

What's causing the discoloration?

That's what happens very shortly before death. Your limbs are shutting down, and your blood in your body is just going to your organs. I have deep purple veins that protrude on my legs. It's horrible.

Where did you start smoking?

I'd just finished Grade 6, and you know what? I was a star athlete: basketball, volleyball, track and field. I loved being athletic. But I started in Grade 7. I lacked confidence. There was a lot of peer pressure to be with the in-crowd. Everybody was smoking.

Why did you keep smoking?

I got hooked. But you know what? My first dog of a cigarette, I threw up for three days after that. I thought it was the most disgusting thing. But everybody who won the most popular, they were all smoking. So I thought, "Oh, eventually I'll get used to it." And that's what I did.

Did you try to quit?

No, I didn't. That's what I tell the kids. I always made excuses. My mother died when I was 21. She developed lung cancer. She smoked for 40 years. One of the top cardiologists said to me, "Buck, do you smoke?" and I said, "Yes." He said, "You have to quit, or I'm going to see you here in 10 years." I said, "This will never happen to me, there'll be a cure for cancer in 20 years, and I'm not going to worry about it now." I made an oath. The anniversary of my mother's death in Sept. 22, I was diagnosed as dying on Sept. 18—19 years after she died.

How did you react?

I was in so much shock. Hysterical to goodness. I looked at my doctor and I said, "I don't even have a cough!" And he said, "Fifty per cent of lung cancer patients will have no symptoms, yet 50 per cent of lung cancer patients at diagnosis are terminal, Stage 4. You're dying."

How long have you quit?

It was a miracle to see Christmas. That's what the goal was. That's how far lung cancer goes. They're looking at me and shaking their heads. Everyday a blessing. Every moment that I have, I'm so fortunate.

Why do you spend the little time you have left talking to students?

I don't want anybody walking that path. My gods, you know, I spent my life saying I was going to live to be 100. And now I'm dying. Even my daughter says, "Mommy, you've got to tell people what it has done to you." She knows the importance. She knows what it's done to me.

What do you tell students?

My presentations are an hour and a half. We talk about everything: peer pressure, self-doubt, feeling that you have to belong to a certain group. I beg them never, ever to take the path that I walked.

What has the response been?

It's been phenomenal. We have people who have booked 4,000 kids in arena, and they said, "The only thing you can hear"—when I'm talking—"is the tears drop on the cement." They've never seen anything like this. One of the most important statements I make to them, "Imagine for one moment saying goodbye to someone you love, and you're never, ever going to see them again." At the end, I'm talking to the kids. They're phenomenal.

How do you know whether what you're saying is having an effect?

I receive hundreds and hundreds of e-mails and letters. I'm getting cards, full packages of cigarettes crumpled up. They tell me they've never, ever thought about this until they met me. They say, "You understand us."

And so, for the record, what do you think of cigarettes?

Oh, I hate them. I hate them! Moment to God. My daughter—I have to say goodbye to the most incredible daughter I could ever have dreamt of, and my husband of 10 years. The pain—there is no pain greater than the pain of cancer, and the pain of grief. I'm going to be dying very, very soon, and it leaves Pat and Michelle on their own. You can't imagine that pain.

I just want Canadians to look at their incredible families, the people in their lives, look in their eyes, and just be so incredibly grateful that they have them in their lives, and that they have many, many years ahead.

Later, promise me, if you smoke, you'll quit. OK?

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NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION

Who says the Liberals will be invincible in the next federal election? That may not be the case, argues veteran party strategist **HERSHELL EZRIN**

THESE DAYS, you have to look far and wide to find anyone who seriously disputes the idea that the Liberals are headed for another majority victory in the next federal election. We see some evidence of that recently in newspaper editorials played by the *presidentialism* of an unnamed, anonymous, anonymous firm writing, roughly, that "it appears that the Liberal Party will continue to be Canada's sole governing body at the federal level for some time." A long string of opinion polls favoring the Liberals also points to that—as does the perception of disarray in opposition parties. But is it really so? I have some doubts—but let's begin by examining the arguments in favor.

The current mood of Liberal electoral infallibility usually appears reasonable and reasonable fact. Start with the polls: the intensity of internal dissent over the timing of Jean Chrétien's retirement doesn't appear to have substantially harmed the party. Then there's the general expectation that Paul Martin will succeed Chrétien. On the basis of Martin's demonstrated abilities and popular appeal, and compared to the lackluster performance of opposition leaders, this alone appears to favor the Martin-led Liberals in the next election.

Add to that the failure of the Alliance and the Conservatives to resolve their vote-splitting, and you have a major source of frustration for those trying to build a coherent centre-right national alternative to the Liberals—who govern from all points of the political compass. Either a Martin or John Manley leadership would likely shift the Liberals to the centre-right, compensating the deficiency for the Alliance and Tories to distinguish themselves—with our returning to policy conservatism. The Alliance has little support out of Manitoba and the Tories have never recovered from their near-disaster experience of 1993, their latest humiliation is their rejection by numerous voters to be leadership candidates.

The fading fortunes of the Bloc Québécois seem tied to a historical shift in support for

the separatist option in their home province. And the NDP has just elected an untested leader who seems determined to take the party back to the future without ideological approach (consider his peace-at-any-cost statements about Iraq), that make him a throwback to the Woodsworth parliamentary vote against Canadian participation in the Second World War.

In the words of Alfred D. Newman, many Liberals seem content to say, "What, are we wrong?" But some unique electoral challenges remain, and these could yet result in the next election not being the prediction of Liberal consensus. This isn't a case for complacency: Martin and his people have their work cut out for them, both within the party and with the public, if they are to avoid some looming pitfalls.

The increasing dispute over control of the party apparatus has significantly weakened the Liberals—and, potentially, the government—particularly with the *top-down* style of loyalty, obedience and courage. Martin's huge lead in the run-up to the convention has led to demands that he act like a winner before he has even secured the prize. In most leadership races and elections, victory brings (and requires) magnanimity, but for now stand on all sides that a tribal feeling of scorn has just begun. If this continues, it doesn't bode well for building an election machine of volunteers whose primary goal is loyalty and trust—not just the disposition of victory's spoils.

With the withdrawal of credible alternative candidates like Brian Topp and Allan Rock, as well as complaints from some remaining potential contenders about the

lack of a fair fight, the public is left asking whether the Liberals are simply perpetuating their democratic deficit: making the rule of a small central elite for another. So far, it looks as if the party will also lose out on the excitement of a highly committed leader skip race that includes public interest, attracts new supporters, energizes members, and forms real, and sometimes painful, policy renewal. While it's to the credit of Martin and his team that they've tapped the field, they should be thinking about how to keep Liberals motivated and on the test.

Resolving the disarray may within his caucus will also be a major challenge. Martin may find himself boxed with the same agenda as the current prime minister when it comes time to face caucus rebels bent on taking advantage of the mid-changes that give backbenchers greater voice. These changes will also hamper the new leader when he faces the task of rewarding his overflying number of caucus followers. The disappearance of central control over numerous parties, such as the reward of a committee chair, will mirror later disappointment for those "blame cabinet members" whose aspirations can't all be met.

Today, Martin appears to be at the peak of his electability. But once he has to take responsibility for choosing policies rather than just commenting on them, his reputation will start to reflect the inevitable heresies. Can, for example, Martin's political style be kept if necessary? Not necessarily. If you move by with both in Alberta and Quebec-based supporters—who have been encouraged to interpret his views in contradictory ways? And while Martin appears fresh in comparison to the Prime Minister, can he successfully occupy the middle ground? Will he represent new experience in the halls, or will he feed the notion that it's time for a change?

In fact, the seemingly untouchable Liberal lead in the polls may offer one of the biggest challenges to the party's plans for clear-cut victory. A new leader will face the twin dilem-



mas of accelerated voter apathy and the prospect of narrow strategic and selective voting. Lulled by a sense of security that the Liberals will win no matter what, some voters may regret their. This plays into the hands of the opposition, who, for all of their poor Canadian weaknesses, retain the very strong regional and local appeal that has allowed them to stay alive. In short, the Liberals could face an election with by-election mentality: since voters will consider a change of government unlikely, they can feel free to vote for other parties. The consequence of that on a national scale could have a seismic impact. Factors in the decline of a number of long-sitting Christian loyalists, whose seats were personal fiefdoms, not party strongholds, and the potential for change increases.

The NDP's election of Jack Layton, a leader with an ideological, urban, central Canadian outlook is one that feeds in latent anti-

American sentiment, will mean tougher battles as a number of urban Ontario seats that the Liberals can't afford to lose. But the new NDP profile could weaken its strong rural base in the West, and will decrease the likelihood of strong three-way races there—helping the Alliance and forcing the Liberals. New Scotian Peter MacKay's likely victory as Tory leader should help solidify the PC ramp in Atlantic Canada. And in Quebec, old assumptions about political preferences no longer apply, as we see in the provincial three-party race between the Liberals, Parti Québécois and Action démocratique.

Added to the mix is the alarming slide in voter interest. In 1988, three quarters of voters participated in the federal election; by 2001, only three in five took part. Fewer voters could make the difference in hard-fought local contests. Shifts of five per cent or less in some key ridings could take their toll—and shifts of this magnitude aren't un-

common when you factor in issues such as the personal popularity of local candidates, the quality of their campaign teams—and the effect of dissonance within the party. Meanwhile, the continuing debate over issues such as health care and our relationship with the United States will put the Liberal agenda under more intense scrutiny—and attacks from both the right and left.

Ten years is a lifetime in politics. The Liberal hegemony under Chrétien has been absolute: through that period, as he has managed to dominate the centre while pushing his opponents to the extreme margins of the political debate. But in the turn of a new era, there are scenarios that cast some doubt on continuing Liberal control. Is an early majority Liberal government the answer that many presume? Not if Liberals don't address these very real problems.

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PRESIDENT MURPHY

In the Bush economy, everything that can go wrong is going wrong

TO A LARGE NUMBER of Canadians and Europeans, George W. Bush is an imperialist bent on undermining the UN and making war. He is a megalomaniac, a messiah, or both.

To a large number of Americans, he's the Yale and Harvard grad who grew up back-country Texas, a serious guy who understands their concern about Islamic terrorism. Their main reservation about him is his ability to manage the economy.

The Democrats devote at least 90 per cent of their criticism of W to his alleged mismanagement of the economy. They duly cite the sustained growth in jobs and budget surpluses in the good old days when good ol' boy Clinton was things, compared with the sustained growth in unemployment and deficits now being talked and the good times will return.

That Mr. Bush retains high poll standings despite a weak economy and the threat of war suggests that most Americans aren't concerned that Democrats deserve all the credit for the 1990s, or that Republicans deserve all the blame for the decade. But polls confirm that the public is more worried about the economy than about Iraq.

Bush's budget-busting stimulus package shows mere signs of stimulus; debate that grows. To the Democrats, his proposals prove he can't manage the economy. They are probably right: as a federalist democratic capitalist system, central governments have limited power to "get the economy moving." What they can do is follow the needed rules; prevent new money—first down him. (The new exception to that principle was the Canadian Liberal's implementation of the Tories' stimulus package—free trade and a GST, although it took nearly three years to do it, through Ignatieff's road to the forest growth in the GST by breaching their election pledges, the Gerts got the economy moving and the budget in balance.)

What confuses Bush is the serial operation of Murphy's Law: virtually everything that can go wrong is going wrong. Here is a partial list:

■ WILL

China has graduated from being a lesser contributor to the U.S. trade deficit to being No. 1 in taking away manufacturing jobs. China's rise has also taken jobs and economic growth from Mexico, which had been a fast-growing buyer of U.S. goods.

A brutally cold winter has skyrocketed oil and natural gas consumption skyward. While demand soars, prices for gas and oil and gasoline for cars rose roughly 50 per cent from last year. The biggest culprit is Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, whose constitutional tactics to move his country closer to Communism triggered a strike that slashed output from a country that supplied roughly 14 per cent of U.S. oil imports. The Iraq standoff is also worth a few dollars per barrel of oil. Combined effect on consumer discretionary incomes roughly the same as a slight increase—a burden that is far more than the tax cut Bush offers.

The drought across the Midwest and West threatens to become a national problem because of minimal snowfalls and rain in the northern breadbasket, from the Rockies to Indiana. Grain farmers are reeling despite big global crop inventories. Nighttime scenarios: rising prices for food at a time of rising prices for fuel.

The exactly opposite problem bedevils the Atlantic coast: Washington has received far more snow this winter than Chicago. From Mexico to the Carolinas, winter storms have caused enormous damage.

The technology and telecom crashes are only two of 1987's million out of stock market values, they triggered the most dramatic jobless sector of the 1990s economy. As

Bush is as unlucky as Clinton was lucky. Clinton cashed the peace dividend. Bush gets unemployment and the bear market.

the worst financial news of all time continues to unravel, millions of Americans contemplate revised personal budgets, and, certainly, if not more corporate pension plans contemplate serious deficits.

Trust lawyers have become the biggest success story of many American occupational class now that such entrepreneurs are struggling. They made billions of dollars out of tobacco litigation, and stand to make billions more from asbestos. Hundreds of U.S. companies have declared bankruptcy, and others are struggling to survive. Halfway multiplexed litigation boosts costs of what is already by far the most expensive health care system in the world, and a major contributor to the nation's declining competitive position. (Other nations, including Canada to an extent, pay health care through domestic octaportion taxes, in the U.S., corporations pay their employees' and retirees' health care costs by building these costs into their product and services. Results: a significant proportion of the cost of a ton of steel, a car, a machine or a plane is health care, and the manufacturers cannot take those expenses out when trying to sell abroad. Foreign competitors simply waive domestic sales or WTO times when exporting.)

State and local governments were big winners from the 1990s boom because of soaring receipts from sales and income taxes. Most of them responded by raising expenditures as rapidly as incomes. The biggest winner was California's state government, which went on a spending spree, financed by huge tax gains from stock options—US\$85 billion in options alone on liabilities in the year 2000 alone. State and local governments' new free-press deals, with California in its biggest credit since the Depression. As the states slash expenditures, unemployment declines. Many observers believe the states' problems will move them off an unemployment list could deliver.

Bush is as unlucky as Clinton was lucky. Clinton cashed the peace dividend, according to the Reagan victory in the Cold War, and was in power when the tech mania spawned the Bush that the good times would last forever. Bush got the unemployment and the bear market.

And Saddam, Osama, and North Korea. ■

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Making the Right Match

Successful investing is all about finding the right match between your holdings and your investment goals. Here is some helpful insight:

LifeGuides

Investors have had a great deal to contend with over the past couple of years, with major Canadian and U.S. stock market indices like the S&P 500 and the TSX 300 losing about one-quarter of their value over the two-year period ended December 31, 2002. During that time, holdings that parroted the technology-heavy NASDAQ 100 index lost about half their value.

In contrast, investors who kept their money in income-producing investments like bonds, mortgages, preferred shares and money funds, and in mutual funds that held these products, enjoyed positive returns. As a group, the best performers, according to Morningstar Canada (www.morningstar.ca) were global pe-

rietary funds, mutual funds, these grew an average more than 33 per cent annually over the two-year period as worries about the general stock market and war jitters sent some investors searching for alternatives.

As an investor, you have some control over how volatile markets impact your unique situation. It comes down to matching your holdings to your objectives and taking steps to reduce volatility or benefit from it.

To begin, be specific in your time frames and understand the precise risks you face. For example, if you plan to buy a house during the next 12 months, are you willing to invest your money in the stock

market not knowing whether it will rise or the double-digit returns you hope for or continue its decline? Unless you have a crystal ball you would be much better off putting your funds in a money market fund with the certainty of preserving your capital and earning one or two per cent returns.

On the other hand, if retirement savings is your goal and you are decades from retirement, two per cent returns won't get you far. You will probably want to accept some risk as a trade-off for superior long-term returns. The factors you must consider are your age, income, whether you already have an asset base, and most importantly, your ability to accept risk.

THINKING BEYOND THE BOX.

Don't look at age 65 as the end of your time frame. Your money will potentially have to last for several more decades. So, while you will probably want to adopt a conservative strategy, there should be some room for growth.

If you have a medium-term strategy, such as saving for your children's education in a RESP (registered education savings plan), watch your time frame closely. Depending on your children's ages, you may want to opt for a low-risk strategy from the day you open the plan, especially if the children are just a few years away from beginning their post-secondary education.

You can manage risk by diversifying your holdings by management style, geographically or by industry sector. Some funds emphasize growth stocks of companies that have above-average sales and earnings growth, expecting their share prices to do better than the general market. Others emphasize value stocks. Holding some of each results in a portfolio that tends to be less volatile short-term than either one alone.

You can, of course, keep all your money in the Canadian markets. But diversifying geographically has its merits because other markets, particularly the U.S., may offer opportunities not available in Canada.

You may also want to consider holding income funds in your portfolio, other conventional mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that are tied to specific securities, such as Government of Canada five-year bonds (TSX:GGV) and

Government of Canada 10-year bonds (TSX:GGK). While income funds add stability to a portfolio, they also provide capital appreciation when interest rates decline.

Are You Getting What You Were Promised? or Keeping Your Fund Manager on Track

There's no doubt that every fund management company looks closely at its fund manager's performance - after all, that's what keeps assets growing. Indeed, fund companies periodically examine their mutual funds' performances relative to market indices' benchmarks and the performance of their major competitors' funds.

Performance, however, is only one factor. Funds should also be monitored to ensure that investors are getting what was promised and that a value fund does, in fact, invest in value stocks while a growth fund holds growth stocks. Managers should not let their funds' styles drift because they are concerned about performance comparisons.

Delivery of the right goods should be a concern for investors who choose specific funds for their portfolios because they want a mix of management styles.

"Value managers should be given value benchmarks and growth managers should be given growth benchmarks," says Yvette R. Bland, senior consultant with Towers Perrin, a global asset consulting firm. Dynamic Mutual Funds limit the organization to monitor its core mutual funds to

make sure that each fund delivers the expected management style. While this type of monitoring is relatively common among major pension funds, it is fairly unique in the mutual fund arena.

In the case of a value fund, monitoring for style involves a detailed analysis of the portfolio to ensure that it has value characteristics, such as low price-earnings ratios and high dividend yields. In contrast, growth fund portfolios should have high returns on equity, usually higher price-earnings ratios, higher debt levels and higher historical and projected earnings.

It is important that fund managers be given valid benchmarks. Bland says the Barra Value Index and Barra Growth Index are specific benchmarks for value and growth portfolios that invest in the U.S. market.

Monitoring goes far beyond direct comparisons of performance. Managers are judged on whether their performance, relative to a benchmark, is due to higher or lower volatility or the added value of their management.

The Investment Funds Standards Committee (www.ifsc.com) which was established in 1998 by major mutual fund databases and research organizations, helps fund investors to make better comparisons. The organization's objective is to provide investors with standard categories, of which there are currently 35. Some of these are fairly narrow, such as health care or financial services. Others are much broader, such as Canadian equity or North American equity.

In today's climate, like most investors you are market-wary and concerned. AIM Trimark Investments applies a 'bigger picture' perspective to investing. We have practical tools and financial solutions to help keep you focused on achieving long-term financial success.

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Investment Rules Will Give Fund Investors More Information

Over the next few years, regulatory proposals will require mutual fund companies to provide more information to investors, often on their web sites, about the quality of information received.

Investors will soon have the ability of receiving mutual fund annual reports. Scotia Securities was the first to receive permission from most provinces and regulators to send reports

only to investors who request them. Documents such as annual and semi-annual reports are on-line at fund sites, and at www.sseir.com.

Scotia Securities estimates that as a result of the new system, its asset holders will save more than \$1 million of printing and mailing costs. On an industry-wide basis the savings to investors will be many times that amount.

The market goes up.
The market goes down.
The market goes up.
The market goes down.
The market goes up.
The market goes down.

Who says the market is unpredictable?

THE WISDOM OF MARKET INSIGHT

Equity markets are more predictable than you might think.

Normal economic cycles include bear as well as bull markets. And market recoveries historically follow downturns.

Statistics prove it. Over the last four decades, the equity market has recorded positive performances 70 percent of the time. In fact, no asset class comes close to providing the growth potential that equities do over the long term.

That's why they're an extremely important part of a well-constructed portfolio.

The secret to making the most of your equity holdings is to embrace a diversified, long-term approach.

For more information on our complete range of equity funds, contact your investment advisor or visit any RBC Royal Bank branch.



RBC Investments

RBC Funds

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Are Hedge Funds for You?

Unlike mutual funds, which generally have positive returns only when the markets in which they invest move higher, hedge funds or alternative strategy funds are supposed to provide positive returns for investors whichever way the markets move.

They try to do this using a variety of strategies that are often rather than those employed by mutual funds. For instance, some hedge funds use short-selling as a way of potentially profiting from falling markets. Short-selling involves borrowing shares from an investment dealer, then selling the shares, expecting to buy them back at lower prices.

Others use what is called a market-neutral

strength or management style.

The jury is still out as to whether the hedge funds group will deliver. Most haven't been around long enough to present a track record. Over the short term, performance is mixed, with returns over the past year about equally split between positive and negative. Performance figures for the 12 months ended December 31, 2002, range from a gain of 74 per cent to a loss of more than 50 per cent. Their management-expense ratios are possibly higher than mutual fund funds and managers are generally compensated for performance.

As a group, hedge funds are aimed at sophisticated investors. Many of these funds require a minimum investment of

the equity categories. Depending on the specific plan, the money will be managed using portfolio managers who won't deal directly with small investors. As a result, investors can access a group of institutional money managers whom most Canadians could never hope to reach otherwise, and obtain performance that should outperform specific benchmarks in both rising and falling markets.

Some organizations offer proprietary wrap accounts. Others offer plans that are available through a number of dealers. If you are considering a wrap account, ask your advisor for the qualifications of the organization that chooses and monitors the managers and replaces them, if necessary.

Explore Your Options

Investors looking for exposure to the markets, but who also want to have a couple of options, financial advisers who are licensed to sell insurance often segregated funds, which have comparable objectives to mutual funds and in many cases are managed by mutual fund managers.

There are some key differences. First, segregated funds come with a maturity guarantee. This means that if, 10 to 20 years, on the so-called maturity date, the value of your holdings is below what you paid, you will get the market value or 75 per cent of the value of your contract—whichever is higher. Some are sold with a 100 per cent guarantee. If you die before the maturity date, a comparable guarantee applies to your beneficiaries.

Segregated funds also appeal to individuals who are

looking for estate protection and want to avoid probate. It is a little harder to give assets to a family trust than to a trust, but it is a possibility for a client other than your estate.

Having a vest, or a power of appointment, in a segregated fund, which includes a guarantee, is a little like a financial option taken if you hold funds for a specific period, say six years. The rules are fairly strict. A segregated fund is a mutual fund depending on the specific issue. If the market is down on the maturity date, you redeem your shares at what you paid for them. If the market is up, you can take them out at capital gains.

Banks sell segregated funds, which are sold through wrap accounts. They are based on the same principles as the specific index.

but strategy by combining short and long positions. The manager of such a fund hopes to cut its or her fund's volatility relative to the market. Still others look to profit from differences in prices between similar companies by short-selling the one they believe is overvalued and buying the one that is undervalued. They expect to make money as the gap between the two prices is closed. Fund managers may use derivatives to reduce volatility or profit from market moves.

There are even funds that take a multi-manager approach, using a number of managers, each of whom has a different

\$150,000 and are sold by offering a memorandum rather than a prospectus.

Wrap Accounts May Suit Your Needs.

Many advisors are placing their larger clients in wrap accounts, which tailor a portfolio to the investor's specific needs. The first step is a review of the client's specific goals, the point being to determine what sort of risk is required. Typically, the choice of investments will include Canadian and foreign bonds, Canadian and foreign equity and growth funds and even small- and large-cap funds within

Wrap accounts are not inexpensive. You will likely pay a management fee of two to three per cent, depending on how much you invest.

Some organizations offer wrap plans, depending on how much you want to invest. You can also work with a broker to tailor a portfolio to your specific needs. But rather than pay commissions every time you buy or sell, your account will be fee-based and what you pay will be set as a percentage of assets. The fee is negotiable and will likely reflect the amount of trading you do.

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MY BIG LANKAN WEDDING

I didn't realize how much my 'ethnic' nuptials would change my view of family

"PRINCESS DI, PRINCESS DI!" the little boys chanted, all skinny arms and white teeth. They followed me around the village excitedly on my first morning in Sri Lanka. This is when I knew how foreign I was, mistaken for the only other white woman to have penetrated the local culture of Weyapola village. I didn't have the heart to tell them that I was not the real Princess Diana; in fact, she had already passed on to heaven, in the next cycle.

Rack in Vancouver, I had intensely fallen in love with and married Neil, a Sri Lankan Canadian. Had no idea of the importance of marrying the only son of an only son in a Sri Lankan family. No honest his culture, we decided to have a second wedding in his country. Flush with the promise of our where Canadian wedding and putting a purple Parajuli suit in my suitcase, I looked forward to my big adventure. I was expecting my Sri Lankan wedding to be different—but not for it to transform the very way I saw marriage and family.

The preparations took all morning. My flower girl Theresa, a six-year-old cousin of Neil's, was utterly terrified of me and my white face and smel when her mother left her to groom me. The beautiful met me with enough pink makeup that, had I selected, would have turned me into a person. Still, they pulled my blond hair into an indestructible up-do that would not disintegrate the duration of my month-long visit.

My husband got dressed in the royal costume of Sri Lanka. Right before the ceremony, I saw him in his full glory, a Portuguese-looking suit with a three-colored pillow hat, a sarong, and Aladdin-like boots. He looked like a fairy-tale king. I felt like an empress. I'd just found out that my purple suit from Vancouver was the wrong colour.

I felt like I was crying out for some Bollywood film I'd seen on multichannel TV.

Our wedding took place in a large hotel overrun with tourists. I goggled at the look on the German faces when they pushed their way into the banquet hall to take pictures.

There was a traditional Sri Lankan bride. My husband and I were escorted by family to the person, the wedding stage with ornate coconut-dressed awns behind it. The floor was laid with red. An aarti, giving a bowl and a pinch, told me it was for fertility.

I set my mouth into that pensive smile that all brides are familiar with and braced myself for the wedding performance. My new aarti and coconut had lifted me on the ceremony. I was to expect Buddhist chants, the sharing of bent leaves, bowing and greeting, and the presentation of a set welcoming me into the family.

That's where things changed for me. As I stood on the wedding stage, I looked out to the room full of people. Children skipped around and played, aunts gasped, and people arrived late. My husband and I were being ignored. Completely invisible. "Is something wrong?" I whispered to him over the chanting. "Everything's fine," he replied.

As the ceremony went on, I realized the cultural difference. Whereas in Canada, weddings are a bonding of two individual people in love, in Sri Lanka, although love

must be so close, a wedding is about uniting two families, two clans. Our aartils were just the excuse for family to get together. For all the love that Neil and I shared, it was not about me and some affluent nuclear family, it was about becoming part of the whole. When one of Neil's aunts presented me with a "going away" suit, I knew that, despite my near-white skin, I was finally now I was Sri Lankan.

My world had altered. Not aware I was called by my first name during my entire visit. To everyone, despite my foreignness, I was daughter, big sister, little sister. My separation as a human being was not acknowledged; it was my relationship to the larger society of family that mattered. Then the bride boys in the village began to call me "Akka" (big sister).

It has been five years since I first became English-Sri Lankan Canadian. This past year, when I watched my Sri Lankan Wedding at the theatre, I laughed like everyone else as the heroine's frustration with her meddling ethnic family. Before my marriage, my family, although close, had been much more like the poor man's WASP parents in the film, we respected each other's space and warned about being overbearing and intrusive. Now, the "Sri Lankan men" has spread around the whole family.

The Philippines, my own clan, no longer kept recipes when buying something for family; we invite relatives to my table or place rather than the Best Western down the street, we rarely need outside daycare. My husband, our kids and I live comfortably in a house with my sister and her family, and my first cousin. My aunts live next door.

What I realize is that there is a lot to be gained from an "ethnic" view of family. I like being everyone's sister or daughter. I cherish having my sister live upstairs and loved having my sister-in-law live with us for two years. It's nice to know that in today's uncertain cold and alienating world, my family is anything but nuclear.

Hey, and "little brother," cousin Argana, is getting married next summer in Weyapola. My dad is coming with us this trip and is very excited about raising more of his Asian family. I can already see Dad meddling down the man drag race the schoolyard. I look forward to the reunion of the village boys over this visit by "Prince Charles."

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DIETS: WHAT WORKS WHAT DOESN'T

With the Canada Food Guide under review, the low-carb, high-protein meal gets a fresh look



THE LOW-CARB KITCHEN

"Want to see a picture?" asks Karen Barnaby, sitting down her canonicus to a fish photo from a pocket of her chef's whites. It's a photo of a re-identified Barnaby at 235 lb. That was four years and 70 excess pounds ago. "Such a junkie," she says with a ready laugh. Barnaby, a Vancouver cookbook author and executive chef of the Fish House in Stanley Park, accepted her weight as an occupational hazard—until her mother died five years ago. "She was only 64," she says, "I thought, wake-up call."

She relaxed almost a year on a low-fat diet—things like brown rice, tuna and vegetables. "I thought I was going to kill myself by the end of it," she says. "The weight loss was so minimal and I just felt cheated all the time." Then she read the low-carbohydrate best-seller *Protein Power*, by doctors Michael E. and Mary Dan Eades. "They're describing me to a T," she thought. Dealing with her carbohydrate "addiction" meant giving up jobs, client-swinging get-togethers of sugar in coffee and ignoring the ever-present slivers of bread, french fries and pasta at the restaurant. That's plenty of meat.

KEN MACQUINN in Vancouver

Barnaby had come to accept being overweight as a chef's occupational hazard

OPRAH WINFREY? Richard Simmons? Who really made dining the pale it has become? How about a how-to guide for Robert Cameron, the first Internet publisher who, in 1994, came out with a book titled *The Drinking Man's Diet* in which he declined to have shed 15 lb. while still enjoying his martinis, wine and nice juicy steaks with a good meal (again of course to be the turning diet's counter that people were flocking to about it). (Drink, drink, everyone drink!) It's not as bad as we used to think. With every Manhattan/Bar stomach will flourish (or drink, drink, drink), and that celebrities made jokes about it ("Richard and I went on the Drinking Man's Diet," said Elizabeth Taylor, who has tried a diet or two in her day. "It worked for awhile, and then we dropped the diet and just continued drinking.") Or even that Cameron subsequently had an octavo coronary bypass surgery after years of

presumably following his own high living advice. *The Drinking Man's Diet* has sold 2.4 million copies. And, 39 years since it appeared, it hasn't as well.

How else to describe the Suzanne Somers Diet, the Cameron Diet, the Five-Day Miracle Diet or the Hollywood 48 Hour Diet? Stepping up and try the Water Diet, the Rice Diet, the Cabbage Soup Diet, the Grapefruit Diet, the Eat to Win Diet, the Calorie Diet's Count Diet, the All You Can Eat Diet, the Beverly Hills Diet or the I Love New York Diet. Described tongue-in-cheer as that simple black number you haven't worn in years? Well, you might want to consider today's dieting rage, please that push a high amount of protein like red meat and fewer carbohydrates like pasta as a way to lose weight and lower cholesterol levels.

Does that sound familiar? There's more

If you buy into another of today's dietary trends that anywhere from a couple of glasses of red wine a day to regularly consuming larger amounts of all kinds of alcohol keeps the heart doctor away—it sounds suspiciously like you're back on the same mad as Cameron and one of the first high protein, low-carb diets ever to rule a best-sellers list.

No wonder we're befuddled about what we should be going on our plates. It's not just the ascending parade of new miracle diets promising to melt away the pounds, celebrities like Madonna, Leanne and Sarah Ferguson going their paid testimonials on the Internet and TV, and the diet creators themselves shifting like modern-day snake oil salesmen. It's the way the food companies make our heads spin with their "low sodium," "high-fiber" and "fat-free" grab. At least now, under new government labeling regulations that came into effect on Jan. 1,

we'll know those cookies we just tossed into the shopping cart are not only laced with calories, they also contain the pesky trans fatty acids that have emerged as the new villains in the war against heart disease. But then there's all this baffling—often contrived—information coming from the laboratories. "The public is getting mixed messages every day," says Jane Dummer, a dietitian in Vancouver, Ont. "Who wouldn't be confused?"

To confuse may make your brain hurt better than normal! That's what some tell us. But other evidence shows that as little as one cup of a day could play havoc with a man's sperm count. Thank you're not too far off for getting for marriage instead of artery-clogging butter? Not to mention: Recent studies highlight the cholesterol-raising potential of those trans fatty acids, the hydrogenated (solidified) vegetable oils in

margarine and plenty of other packaged goods. "We always knew potato chips and french fries were bad. But who could have predicted that a substance called acrylamide in them can cause cancer, as a widely published Swedish study found last year?" (Interestingly, a newer study says the small levels of acrylamide found in deep-fried foods will not kill you.)

Even the Canada Food Guide—with its emphasis on cereals, breads, vegetables and fruit—is under suspicion. Health Canada is in the midst of a sweeping review of its guidelines for healthy eating for the first time in 11 years. "Things have changed so rapidly since 1992," says Mary Bell, director general of Health Canada's office of nutrition policy and promotion, which coordinates the guide. Still, it's not proper to change the existing guide for making the country fit. Any change reaching

from the review, she says, might simply be a matter of emphasis. But at least one of the experts advising Health Canada on the review has no doubt it's time for an update. "There are places where significant changes need to be made," says Vancouver dietitian and author Virginia Melina.

One of those places could well be the approach to protein. Back in the 1940s, Cameron and others told North Americans that loads of meat would make them healthy. High protein, low-carbohydrate diets—especially one espoused by Robert Atkins, a then little-known New York physician—were all the rage throughout the '70s, as a campaign against refined sugar gained steam. But as more evidence emerged concerning fat with heart disease and some cancers, fatty foods—including protein-rich meats—dropped roundly out of favor with the medical establishment. In their stead,



PAUL MARTIN, 34, Montreal, MF and 34th prime minister of Canada

"I attended a lot of banquets, balls and dinner functions," says Martin, who is travelling across Canada a lot these days. "Initially, I rarely have time to eat at these events, and that's a disadvantage because sometimes the food looks and smells delicious. I spend most of the time chatting with people. This means I'm not eating a full dinner. So I try to be careful about what I eat. Although I'm a sucker for burgers—I really do try to stick to fish, seafood and lots of salad. When I'm at home I work out. When I travel I try to drink as much as possible, but unfortunately most of my exercise comes from pushing myself away from the table. I've got to do better."

doctors began recommending starchy carbohydrazes as the basis of healthy eating.

The effort? The phobias, many experts now believe, led to an avoidance of carbohydrates as conscientious eaters switched to rice, potatoes and pasta. Now, as a result, that dietary shift is taking the blame for the epidemic of obesity and diabetes sweeping the continent. So—surprise, surprise—high-protein diets are now big news. As for Adams, after 30 years in the scientific wilderness, he's suddenly the man of the hour as new, reputable studies support his low-carb, high-protein approach.

What this dietary swing and rising sugar-sweetened foods uncertainty among the experts—what many of us are desperate to find a weight-loss formula that works we're willing to give anything a shot. Cana-

da's adult obesity rate tripled between 1985 and 1998, to 14.8 per cent, which means that roughly 3.3 million of us are packing a dangerously high level of fat. What's more, the picture is even bleaker among the kids—33 per cent of boys and 27 per cent of girls in Canada are seriously overweight. What's over the age, down the road the prognosis is the same: an epidemic of early-onset diabetes, high blood pressure and other cardiovascular problems along with an increased incidence of a range of cancers and respiratory ailments. Not to mention that obesity already costs the country an estimated \$1 billion yearly in health-care costs and lost productivity.

Now for the really disheartening news: there is no silver bullet. That means, one, no solution to all of our nutritional and



HENRY CHANG, 32, Washington correspondent, CBC television

"I'm not a fat guy. I'm a big guy (we look three, 220-lb.) with a good-sized appetite, and this is a job where you've got to eat a lot and can put on the pounds." When his weight balloons—it has climbed to 250—becomes a couple of weeks in the low-carb diet, high protein, low-fat diet, takes a week off "to reset the machine," then gets back on it again for two weeks. He says that can take off as much as 25 pounds. "I'm not even sure if that's the way it's supposed to be done. It's the diet's dilemma: for instance, you get to eat all the lean hamburger meat you want—and I like to eat. I know it would be better to eat steadily all the time, but I just can't do that."

weight-loss woes simply does not exist, no matter what the latest fad diets and their earnest proponents would have us believe. "Most people are just looking for a quick fix," says Harvey Anderson, a professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Toronto. "Most people live such a vicious cycle and are so lazy they will just sit back and look for that magic solution rather than go out and actually do what must be done to lose weight themselves." What's more, most research shows that that promise big weight loss in weeks are just short-term fixes that don't keep the pounds off in the long run.

Some of these plans could do more harm than good. Any diet that calls for eating loads of fruits and vegetables, for example, means you could be missing out on important

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A NEW COMMUNITY COMES OF AGE

As the first Chinese adoptees reach puberty, researchers are taking stock

IN A ROOM cluttered with photos, dolls and other girlhood trinkets, Emma Pei-Pei Sengelen beams over her prized possession: a weighty medal ribbon awarded for her participation on the Knoxville Elementary soccer team. Emma Wu Ju, her sister and bus-to-bed cohabitant, deliberates before revealing her most cherished keepsake: a pale jade necklace, a gift from her *po po*, the Chinese woman who watched over her until she was three months old. Together, these pendants speak volumes about the girls' unlikely second identities. Arriving in 1993, Emma was one of the first Chinese adoptees to come to Ontario. Sengelen arrived the next year, at age two. Growing up in Campbellville, 50 km west of Toronto, with five older brothers, their grandmother Dorothy and parents Paul and Barbara, the preteen-ers, says Paul, among "the wisest owners of the Chinese girl community" in Canada.

That community is considerable. In the past 17 years, Canadian families have adopted 7000 Chinese children, overwhelmingly girls. Since the middle of the past decade, they have represented about one-third of all international adoptions, jumping in 1998 and again in 2002 to fully 41 per cent. The Perkinson, executive director of the Adoption Council of Ontario, attributes China's popularity to a variety of factors: well-organized international programs that carry a relatively low price tag (about \$20,000), the families' strong post-adoption support network, and the appeal of offerings home to someone abandoned because of the country's one-child social policy and cultural preference for boys. And then there's the fact that, as the *po po*s, "they are appealing little girls who tend to do quite well." This last point is, for many, the clincher. In the early 1990s, researchers found that one-third of children adopted from Romanian orphanages had significant developmental difficulties stemming from the lack of social and emotional stimulation and poor physical care. Around the same time, Chinese adoptions began to take off.

But the evidence that Chinese kids struggle



For Emma and Sengelen, a family trip to China helped bring alive a sense of their heritage

gle with fewer problems is still anecdotal. Only recently have they come under the gaze of researchers here and in the U.S., where up to 5,000 children arrive annually from China. While the media's preliminary conclusions appear to confirm the positive perceptions, researchers caution that their subject groups are small and they do not know what, if any, problems will arise over the long term. Entering parenthood "is always risky," says Martha Nussio, executive director of Children's Bridge, an Ottawa-based international adoption agency.

Also lacking—because the earliest Chinese adoptions are only now reaching their crucial teen years—is a comprehensive picture of how the kids are faring socially, and

how they are dealing with both their adoptions and minority status. Eva Mayne, 15, and her brother Christian, 11, are the oldest of four Chinese children adopted on the Lohd family. They are frank about the issues they face. Growing up in Sherburne, Que., 340 km south of Montreal, the siblings have encountered some racism. "When I was a little girl, the kids called me 'chink' [chink], or they'd pretend to speak Chinese," recounts Eva Mayne. "I would get so mad but I couldn't do anything because they were bigger than me." She learned to ignore the taunts. "It gets difficult sometimes," adds Christian. "I usually try to ignore it when I'm feeling sad but sometimes it's too much and I have to talk to my parents."

Some are lucky. Ross Newman has encountered little racism. Living with her mother, Wendy, just a few blocks from Van-

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couver's Chacorn, the 31-year-old attends a school that is 80 per cent Asian. Wendy, an arts administrator, actively fosters her daughter's connection to her Chinese heritage through books and cultural activities. Every year (most recently, earlier this month), they make a dozen or so adoptions and their parents to a Chinese New Year party that spills onto the streets for the community's annual parade. "It's important that I don't forget it's a part of me," Russ says.

Adoption, social workers suggest, can be troubled by the mystery surrounding their origins. But the children MacLean's interviewed register more curiosity than distress.

A trip to China (for a family of Chinese Daughters, a documentary by Naomi Wise that airs on Feb. 19 and 23 on TVO's *The View From Here*) helped bring alive the Singapore girl's sense of their heritage and, for now, says

Eve-Marjorie and Christian (centre, with family) are back about the losses they face.

Paul, their questions have waned. When her adoption does come upon them with her friends, says Staines, "they think it's really awesome." Paul adds that Emma—who has a fancy shoe collection that includes a tiny pair of slippers once worn by a Chinese woman with bound feet—"has found great comfort in the idea that she has a Chinese lineage." As for his birth parents, says Christian Luis, "I'd like to ask them why they gave me up. I'd like to see what they look like."

Children's pre-adoption homes can also lead to adverse developmental consequences. But however disorienting it seems to Westerners, the fact that Chinese children are largely given up because of their gender means they may be less at risk for hidden medical

conditions. For Marc McLaren, it was precisely the prospect of a healthy child that drew her to China in 1998. The Victoria financial services employee first explored her options with Korean children. Three times the agency contacted her with proposals, but each child had potentially serious problems, she says, and one "was at risk for fetal alcohol syndrome." The information about Shylee, her now four-year-old daughter from China, was scant—a tiny picture and a one-page report indicating no abnormal health concerns. But, in the belief that pregnant Chinese mothers take good care of themselves, she proceeded with the adoption.

McLean first held Shylee, at the age of eight months, in a Chengdu hotel room. "For about 10 months we looked at each other. Then she started to cry," she recalls. "She was clutching this little mouse so tightly it

was just so sad." Returned to the nursery's arms while the paperwork was completed, Shaylee scolded, only to wait again as McLarni turned her down the hall so her mom "Every time I looked at her, she cried." By day three, Shaylee rewarded her mom with a smile.

Shaylee's wariness at being thrust into a stranger's arms is, in fact, a positive sign. It indicates, says Jay Rajkowski, a University of Georgia researcher who has nursed people of Chinese children about their bonding experiences, that she had already established an emotional connection with her caregivers. As a result, she was capable of "re-learning that sense of trust and security." Of the 200 parents who responded, he adds, the majority reported similar experiences.

When Chicago lawyer Ron Prince and his wife Nancy (the names have been changed to protect the child) finally flew to Anhui province in this summer of 2009, they were aware that the 16-month-old girl waiting there would present a challenge. Lily was nearly blind due to congenital glaucoma—a condition that could have been corrected at birth. Surgery on their return to the U.S.

partially restored her vision, but greater problems lay ahead. By the time Lily was three, her parents began to notice unusual behavior. At the park, says Prince, "the first thing she would do is run over and jump on somebody's lap, anybody"—and she couldn't grasp that her caregivers were on sale. Lily is also frequently manipulative. She may show great affection, sometimes genuine, Prince says, but often the lesson she conveys is: if you're not what I want, I'll use whatever I have to get you to go to do it. "Lily has been diagnosed with reactive detachment disorder. She craves the control and attention because, Prince says, she never learned 'she could depend on anyone else.' That leaves only herself. At daycare, 'nobody wants to be with her,' he adds. "That's the saddest part."

More common are developmental delays. Children who begin their lives in institutions sometimes lack the speech, toys and human interaction needed to optimize their crawling, walking and ability to learn. In Chinese orphanages, chil-

dren's movements are also curtailed by the multiple layers of clothing they wear. But they generally compensate for such delays in a matter of months. Nancy Cohen, director of research at Toronto's Hindu Dharma Centre Institute, is leading a research team tracking 75 Chinese children in Canada. When the first 50 kids were tested one month after their arrival, only 23 per cent had average motor abilities and 15 per cent at least average cognitive abilities. Twelve months later, those proportions jumped to 85 and 88 per cent respectively.

And for the parents of those adoptees who are now reaching an age where all kids tend to ask questions about their heritage, the Lohi children may have some advice. "Answer all the questions and don't be scared that it will make them mad," says five-Marysue. "And be supportive when the kids first go to school, because it's so hard to be different from everyone else." To his fellow adoptees, Christian offers this: "Take it in stride. Things will be OK with time." ■

—WGB Kurland

'The gorilla population has just about gone'

Kerry Bowman recently returned from a trip to Kasul Ridge National Park in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There, in the midst of a conflict and war-torn area, now in its sixth year, the last few eastern lowland gorillas face extinction. The discovery in the war zone of large quantities of coltan, a mineralized in nephelene, quartz and, especially, silver-garnet crystals, has driven the apes to the brink. Bowman is a biologist at the University of Toronto, and his Canadian Great Apes Alliance campaign co-leads and other apes—behold.

There's hunting virtually everywhere now, including in all the national parks. Coltan miners go in there because it's about the only economic option they have. You get it, they say you can get gold. You find it in rivers. And often there's just mining—with a shovel all most, and often by hand.

To sustain themselves while they mine, they eat the largest mammals possible. Which is forest elephants and gorillas. The gorilla population has just about gone—we never had clear numbers but it's estimated to have dropped 95 per cent. And more, in the years since coltan was discovered, which is about five or six years ago. We know of 31, five-two. That's all we're certain of. There's no indication of forest elephants any longer.

I think what most people don't realize is there's actually a relationship between these new technologies that we use and a lot of death and destruction. Consumers should ask questions about where coltan is coming from, because it is—absolutely, with no doubt, I've seen it first-hand—associated with bloodshed, human suffering and environmental destruction. And a complete ban on coltan is not reasonable. I don't think it can be enforced. What can and I believe

should be done is to set up coltan-mining collectives—this isn't great, environmentally, but for now it's the best of a bad situation—where they can mine safely, where they can eat food that doesn't come from endangered large mammals out of a World Heritage Site, and where the profits can go to the people. Because what's happening now is not justifiable.

I see it as an ethical question. We know that great apes experience life in a very similar way to humans. We know they care, to all intents and purposes, suffer and grieve and feel emotions the way that humans can. And the suffering and annihilation of the great apes, to me, means the same ethical questions it would if it involved humans. Because if they experience things the same way we do, how can we ethically say there's this line that somebody drew in the sand, long ago, between animals and people?



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HOW DANGEROUS IS SERZONE?

Health Canada is reviewing risks associated with the common antidepressant

THOSE U.S. COMMERCIALS for some prescription drugs that occasionally turn up on TV programs seen in Canada sure can be bizarre. They tell you that, if you take a particular pill, your quality of life will improve—unless you’re unfortunate enough to experience any of a long list of awful side effects. Picture what a commercial for Serzone might look like. Manufactured by New York-based Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Serzone is prescribed in North America for moderate to severe depression. An ad could feature a severely distressed businessman confidently going about his routine in a modern office setting. An announcer with a reassuring baritone would tell us Serzone can relieve depression, and that you should ask your doctor whether the drug is right for you. Then, in a rapid, clipped monotone, he might announce: “Serzone can cause serious liver damage—symptoms include fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain, rashes, vomiting, discoloured stools, dark urine, weight loss, jaundice, confusion, loss of sleep, and, in some cases, death.”

There’s no such ad, but these side effects are real. Serzone’s generic name is nefazodone—it’s one of the newer drugs known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), the class that includes Prozac. Health authorities have linked nefazodone to severe liver damage that has caused at least 18 deaths worldwide since 1994, the year it first became available in Canada. Because of what is broadly believed to be the widespread under-reporting of adverse drug reactions by health-care workers, the actual number of deaths attributable to Serzone-related liver damage is almost certainly higher. Other patients taking Serzone have required liver transplants—including two in Canada. More than 100 Canadians—and likely many more—are known to have suffered liver damage resulting in enzyme imbalances, cell death, inflammation and bile in the blood. Again, because of spotty reporting, the exact number of cases of serious liver damage worldwide is not known. All told, about 11 million people have

taken the drug—including 693,000 in Canada. In December 2000, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration told Bristol-Myers Squibb to add a black box warning to its Serzone packaging—the FDA’s strongest labeling requirement—to alert doctors to the antidepressant’s association with potentially life-threatening liver damage. European agencies, too, with authorities in the Netherlands and Sweden raising the need for investigations and liver-monitoring programs for patients using the antidepressant, sold there as Doxamin. Last month, Bristol-Myers Squibb, the world’s fifth largest drug maker, said it is pulling the product from the entire European market. Adverse drug reactions, or even pressure from the pharmaceuticals, weren’t the cause of the withdrawal, says Dr. Darlene Joly, Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Lawrenceville, N.J.-based vice president of medical affairs, global marketing. The decision was made, she says, in response to shipping sales in Europe and the absence of a single test that could reveal different types of potential liver damage.

The company will continue selling its Serzone in the United States and Canada. (Global sales reached the \$600 million range in 2000, but have dropped considerably since then.) “While the incidence of liver failure has remained constant in spite of increased exposure to the product,” says Joly, “we feel very comfortable with our decision to discontinue sales, based on business reasons, in some places, and continue selling the product in others.”

For concerned patients, there are alternatives to nefazodone. Public Citizen, a Washington-based advocacy group, urged readers of its on-line newsletter (at www.citizen.org) a year ago to ask their doctors about switching to a safer antidepressant.

Pharmacist Larry Soach, a Public Citizen research analyst, says there are about two dozen pharmacological alternatives to nefazodone that generally can work just as well, but pose less risk. “No longer are any reason why that drug should stay on the market anywhere,” he says.

Bristol-Myers Squibb first learned of a patient suffering liver failure in 1995, says Joly. “We followed up on that report,” she says, “as we do all serious adverse events, to the best of our ability, by consulting the physicians reporting the information, etc.” Since then, Joly says, the occurrence of liver damage linked to nefazodone has not been alarming. “This is a very rare event,” she says. “Since 1994, we’ve only had 28 reports of liver failure leading to serious deaths.”

Eighteen of those patients died, out of 11 million users, over eight years or so. That appears to be a minuscule rate. It helps, however, to put the number of deaths and serious illness into perspective. The U.S. FDA, for example, says only a fraction of adverse drug reactions get reported. “We see less than 18 per cent,” says Laura Bradford, an FDA spokeswoman, “and may be closer to one per cent.” Health Canada spokesman Ryan Baker estimates that one occurrence out of 10 gets reported. So these there have many more deaths attributable to nefazodone but never reported as drug-related. No one knows. But drug-related deaths tend to get reported more than illnesses, Joly argues, and consequently are more likely to be reported.

Terence Young bristles at the lack of reporting. Young, a former member of the Ontario legislature and now president of a consulting firm in Oshawa, Ont., has researched adverse drug reactions extensively since his daughter, Yvonne, 15, died in March 2000 while taking another drug, Propofol, to control bleeding. His conclusion: health-care workers likely report fewer than one in 100 adverse drug reactions. Young welcomes health commissioner Roy Romanow’s call



for an independent drug agency to monitor adverse reactions. The agency system, which relies on doctors voluntarily reporting problems to a branch of Health Canada, is a woefully inadequate way to keep tabs on potentially lethal drugs, says Young. “What a doctor with a handful of patients wants to pursue in the middle of the day,” he adds,

“and send a letter to Health Canada that says he almost killed one of his patients?”

Concerns over nefazodone have circulated since an early in July 1999, when a Health Canada newsletter on adverse drug reactions briefly noted one case of liver dysfunction. Two years later, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada Inc. and one of its divisions,

Montreal-based Lantem Pharmaceuticals, issued Canadian physicians and pharmacists a letter with “important safety information.” It noted 108 incidents of serious liver injury worldwide since 1994, adding that this was generally presumed to be an underestimate.

The letter said two-thirds of those patients showed symptoms within four months of starting the drug—some within a few weeks. The manufacturers also had important information for people taking nefazodone in conjunction with other drugs. Nefazodone, said the letter, inhibits a key liver enzyme important in metabolizing a variety of drugs. As a result, some drugs could accumulate in the body and reach toxic levels even when used as directed. Health Canada also posted a warning on its Web site a month later, stating that nefazodone had “an occasional” liver associated with liver damage leading to complications or death.

Women may have particular reason to be concerned about nefazodone use. Last May, Dr. Dennis Stewart reported a new observation in the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*. Stewart, a University of Toronto psychiatrist and chair of women’s health for several Toronto hospitals, said that out of 52 mostly severe cases of nefazodone-related liver injury, 32 were women. Why is unclear. “Every woman a drug like this is on the market,” says Stewart, “more people get sick.”

Health Canada is now reviewing nefazodone’s safety—30 years after publishing its initial concerns. “Health Canada hopes to have the review of nefazodone completed in the next couple of months,” says Baker. “However, it’s impossible to predict exactly how long it will take, considering there’s no way of knowing where the evidence will lead us.”

Stewart warns Health Canada is taking too long. “Sometimes,” she says, “one wonders if the lag time is not due more to bureaucratic process than careful evaluation of the material.” Terence Young suggests that patients and practitioners alike take a cautious approach to new medications. “Some doctors don’t recommend any drugs until they’ve been on the market for five years,” he says. “I would suggest that’s the kind of physician you want as your family doctor.” Young’s advice, however, wouldn’t apply to Serzone—at 14, for all the controversy surrounding it, the drug will have been on the market for nine years. ■

Eighteen people taking Serzone—out of 11 million users—are known to have died of liver failure. But are all cases reported?

THE GREAT PRETENDER

In a world of instant divas, the original chick rocker is still the real deal

CHRISSE HYNDE is not a shy girl about having her picture taken. "Look at me with your eyes," the photographer gently asks her. But her eyes are masked by bangs and dark eyeshadow, and they're not smiling. After staring down the lens for a few frames, she lines her face. "Stop smiling at me," she tells the second industry cop, while watching from across the room. "I'm so-called distant." In best-of-blue jeans, a black T-shirt, and vest, the lead singer of the Pretenders looks every inch the rock 'n' roll road warrior, with no-consciousness-to-placard further insistence in its own fashion statement. She once drew up a list of 30 overused terms to heading "chick rockers." Number six: "Don't think that rocking your boobs out and trying to look f---able will help. Remember you're in a rock and roll band. It's not 'I'm'—it's 'we'—you!"

Before *Live Through This* or *Slims*, before *Geometry* or *Rainy or Poik*, even before *Misadventure*, there was Chrissie Hynde. She's the original chick rocker, the first to turn female empowerment up to 11, while pretending it's no big deal. Unlike the current breed of pop diva, Hynde has never sold herself as a one-name band. She possesses an expansive voice, a sound that soars from sultry murmurs to blizzards of clarity with a sweet, surrendering growl. But she's always presented herself as the anti-diva, part girl in a band with a guitar sounder rock. One of the boys.

Hynde was a rock fan from Akron, Ohio, who dropped out of Kent State University and followed the British Invasion to its roots. She founded the Pretenders after moving to London to join the punk scene in the '70s. She still lives there. And despite losing two founding members in drug-related deaths during the early '80s (bassist Pete Dinklage and guitarist James Honeyman-Scott), the band is still very much alive a quarter-century later. So it's Hynde. Her big hit—Precious, Precious—back on the *Chart*—may be behind her. But at 51, this punk mother of two grown daughters (aged 18 and 20) is

as vital, as tough, and as awfully uncompromising to herself as she was packaged as another rock 'n' roll legend. "I don't think we'll ever be mainstream," she says. "And I'm very grateful for that."

Love *Slims*, the Pretenders' first studio album in four years, may work its way into the mainstream whether she likes it or not. With a more mellow sound, and an infusion of reggae grooves, Hynde has crossed the most intimate and seductive album of her career. It's also her most mature. Two of the strongest cuts, *Just Like Starlin* and *The Love*, are quiet meditations on sexuality with lyrics that could have come from Leonard Cohen. And in the Jamaican hit of *Complexion*, she offers a very mature on-line and feminine: I refuse to keep a gun in my pants because I'm working power. The builders and the workers. When they whistle and they shout I'll like to give them something to shoot at me about.

But the album's most intimate theme is rutted romance. With a string of songs about heartbreak, infidelity and dissolution, Hynde has never sounded more vulnerable, confident. *Live Through This*, the album's one blistering rocker, is a manifesto of mistrust. Nothing *Breaks Like a Heart* is a tender lament from a glad lover. I Should Offered off a history of regrets for a relationship that could have been saved only "if, if, if." In *Saving Grace*, an aching beautiful ballad, the singer pleads with her ex to have her back. And in *Walk Like a Panther*, the album's one cover tune, she sings of a Latin lover ditching her for "a woman half my age."

Hynde recorded *Love Songs* as she was separating from her son Liam, lover, and so on. And *Backbone*, Columbia's *unlabeled* *Backbone*. But she sings off the margins that it's a breakup album. "Everyone keeps telling me it's about the breakup of my marriage, but I don't see that." Then, rearing through the songs one by one, she offers poetic explanations of where they came from. The *Love Songs* was inspired by a friend who bet on horses, she says. "You get excited for

a song. Then you put your own take on it. It's personal but coded in mundane events."

Face to face, Hynde is a daunting presence. Knowing she's an advocate for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), Hynde should not to wear the leather jacket in the interview, and find herself handling her with kid gloves. Sitting in her Toronto hotel room, scarves draped over the lamp, she's blunt and surly at first. But as she lights a hand-rolled cigarette from the subway, she begins to open up. Soon she's talking a blue streak.

On the road not taken

I thought I'd put. I was even accepted at the Ontario College of Art, in 1970. I thought Toronto was so cool and everything. I took a day off work. I was drawing these books of arms for a small order catalogue run by a bunch of hippies. I got my little post-fake together and got a flight up. They accepted me. But I didn't have the money to go. I'm glad I didn't work out.

On the wages of success

I don't think I could make it if I was starting now. There wouldn't be any place for someone like me. I was talking to this old-school gay last night. He's of the 30-plus generation. We were talking about how the industry has gone, and I posed this question: would you rather be one of these men who sell a few million copies of their first record and are on the cover of *Rolling Stone*—provided they look like a porn star—but have never done a live show? Or would you rather just know your position is secure because you like playing and you're with the band? And he says, "Oh no, I'd go for the comfort." That's that generation. You get the Rolex watch and the holiday and you're in. That's why everyone goes solo so soon. That's the band is a dying breed. It doesn't depress me. Things change. But if you were naming on the *Yoko*, you didn't expect to be part of the Establishment. That's why you were in a band—to avoid all that.



On the burden of being a rock legend

I don't dislike anyone any more. I admire Neil Young, Bob Dylan, people who are just true to themselves. Bob Dylan is one of the funniest guys I've ever met. He's a nut. But everyone takes him so seriously it would really get on my nerves if I were him.

On being Springsteen

There's always the exception to the rule. He's a great businessman and he's got a lot of humility. A lovely guy. When I was in the '80s, you didn't expect to be part of the Establishment. That's why you were in a band—to avoid all that.

On achieving merit

I've a sickler for denial. If you're not a veggie, you're not a hippie.

On selling the music

I don't have to make value any more because now they know that no one's ever going to play them. I'll do some television, which makes me squirm, but if you're not on TV you don't exist. We don't sell records. We don't get radio play. A few companies own all the stations now, and everything is so saturated. We got ghettoed as a classic rock act. And classic rock stations won't play any-

thing new. I'm sure something really good can be popular, but it seems unlikely.

On the war against love

Obviously Annette has to be stopped. The *Foundations of America* is a genocide, so basically it's got to be brought back down. Plus, Annette and the West have been pumping out a lot of stuff that's offensive to the rest of the world—pornography, smut and gab capitalism gone berserk. But how does affect me? I'm just getting on with my life. I play guitar in a band I really like. They're nice people. I lead them to glory every night. ☐



OSCAR AND THE GUNS OF MARCH

Orwellian security and dire dramas of humanity on the brink will be the hallmarks of this year's awards

AS THE WHITE HOUSE prepares for war, Hollywood has been mounting its own highly rated moral campaign of *Shook and Aired*, a struggle for the hearts and minds of 5,600 Academy voters. Preserving the Oscars go ahead as planned, on March 23, there may be more to the night's suspense than simply opening the envelopes. By then the United States could well be knee-deep in Iraq. The orange alert that now routinely appears on the CNN screen, like the pollution index, could be off the charts. And in one of the most watched TV events in the world—the Super Bowl of entertainment—the Oscars will represent the most attractive terrorist target in all the land. Amid Orwellian security, Hollywood really will get on a terror fix. Governed and jeweled (decreed if American lives are brought over seas), they'll gather at the high altar of the world's most extravagant culture—and celebrate America's divine right to diversion as a time when its citizens are being subdued to its thousandfold with duct tape.

What's so strange about it all is that the Academy has chosen to honor movies that are, for the most part, about the death of Western civilization as we know it. Among the Oscar nominees announced last week, the candidates vying for best picture are all period films, and with one exception, die, loveless portraits of humanity on the brink.

Gangs of New York, Martin Scorsese's epic bloodbath, traces the roots of Yankee intolerance from the struggle of an eagle confined in a person's glass eye to a blue-forward version of Manhattan's twin towers rising from the fog of history. *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* takes place in the same what-come-mythical-ruins-of-Middle-Earth, but its apocalyptic vision of world war looks a lot like Christendom has stood against the infidel hordes. Then there's *The Phantom*, Ronan Pollard's roots saga of the Warsaw Ghetto, the tale of an artist scrambling for salvation in the name of the Holocaust.

The other two best picture contenders are war stories on a more intimate scale, scenarios of disavowed women driven to suicide and murder. Filtered through the disorienting self-annihilation of Virginia Woolf, *The Hours* is a study of female despair in the modern age. At the other end of the scale, *Chicago*, a fable of dueling freeway furies, offers an oasis of harmless entertainment. It leads the Oscar field, with 13 nominations. But as a musical without a love story, it's a cold, cynical confection, more of that old razzle-dazzle burlesque by a male mine with the curb-atomizing revelation that celebrity is fake and fleeting. *Chicago* is this year's *Moulin Rouge*, without the witlessness. And as a showbiz yarn that holds a variety runner up to *Tinseltown*, it's less

distorting than the far-house ride through the looking glass offered by *Adaptation*.

Surrounded by desperate pictures in desperate times, it's no wonder Hollywood has embraced a refurbished martial as a safe haven. The last musical to win best picture was *Oleanna*! That was in 1968, in the height of the Vietnam War.

There are other ways of viewing the Oscars, made from the prism of the Zeitgeist. The awards have become the focus of quasi-military campaigns, and this year's nominations fill one place with surgical precision. All the best picture nominees were launched in December, proof that Hollywood has positioning down to an art. Even Oscar queen Meryl Streep, who set a record with her 11th nomination this year, has been earping about getting spoiled the fun.

As much as anything, the nominations have come to reflect the balance of power in Hollywood. During the 1990s, you could see a dramatic schism between independent productions and studio pictures, with *The Piano* squaring off against *Schindler's List*, *Pulp Fiction* against *Forrest Gump*. Now that the former index have become so-called micro-majors, the lines are blurred. Four of the best picture nominees were produced or co-produced by either Miramax or New Line, both former indie housed in Manhattan, not Hollywood. And some of the year's



Julie Delpy (left) proves she can sing and dance, while a very on-Archetype Nicholson and Verbalyn may win

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Film | »

olger films have been financed by major studios, including Columbia's Adaptations, which issued four nominations, and MGM's *Light in the Piazza*, which was snubbed.

Of course, this year the Cinderella story of independent cinema belongs to *Wineap's* *Mr. Verdugo*, whose *Big Fat Gosh* *Wineap* became the most lucrative indie movie of all time, grossing US\$550-million worldwide. The first Canadian to be nominated in a major Oscar category since *Avon* *Pygmy* (for 1997's *The Sweet Hereafter*), Verdugo is up for best original script. And she's got some otherbie companion *Star* *Heaven*, *Gang* of *New York*, and two for *sign* *gents*, *Speech* *Talk* to *Her* and *Mexico's* *Y Tu Mamá Tambien*. Without being cruel, you could say that Verdugo's script is the weakest of the bunch. But don't be surprised if she wins. A lot of Academy voters will be lusting to see her being the fiery side to a triumphant conclusion, and for the *Wid* *dry* rule with a big fat acceptance speech. Some were disappointed to see Verdugo fail to win a best actress nomination. But after all, her movie's a comedy, and Oscar's famous for not having a sense of humour.

This also happens to be Hollywood's strongest year for female roles in recent memory. Ever Snopce, who got a supporting nod for *Adaptation*, failed to be recognized in the lead category alongside her *Moore* co-star, Nicole Kidman. This year that category should be renamed, best triumph by an actress over unlikely odds, playing a character who triumphs over unlikely odds. *Wid* on *wrap* against *William* *Ilupki*, who moved heaven, earth and Madonna to bring the life of an unsung poet to the screen in *Prize*. Then there's *Diane* *Kane*, who sustains a performance of unswerving

Surrounded by desperate pictures in desperate times, it's no wonder Hollywood has taken to a refurbished musical as a safe haven

realism amid the formula chaos of *Un* *faithful*. *Julianne* *Moore* sublimely transforms a *Paul* *Fliters* cliché of an earnest housewife in *Far From Heaven*. And *Renée* *Zellweger* proves to the world that she can sing and dance in *Chicago*.

Kidman, however, already did that in *Moulin Rouge*, while dancing through a public divorce from Tim Cruise. Now, free behind that false nose, she not only defies expectations by making a credible *Virginia* *Woolf*, she brings a speculative intelligence to the part. I expect her to win, not just for her 30-minute slice of *The River*, but for the steady harness of her career.

The Oscars tend to magnify actors for who they are, and how far they've come. And acting the roles, shown of physical remoteness are often rewarded. In this year's close race for best actor, there's a lot of that. *Michael* *Caine* delivers the only astonishing performance, a pulled *Singer* correspondent in *The Queen's American*. Then there's a hollow-eyed *Adrian* *Brody* waving away in *The Pianist*, and a haunted *Nicole* *Kate* playing a *screenwriter* in *Adaptation*. In *Gangs*, *Daniel* *Day-Lewis* does everything but act himself on film as *Bill* the *Butcher*, a kind of diabolical monster that *Jack* *Nicholson* used to specialise in. Just, meanwhile, is irrefragably as *Jack* *Abel* as a grizzled, smaller-than-life *man* in *About* *Schwab*—although

playing against type becomes a theme in its own right. All the nominees but *Brody* already have Oscars. My hands itch at *Nicholson* as well as his fourth, young *Katherine* *Hepburn*'s mood. Hollywood loves a winner.

But I don't want to waste any predictions (I always lose the other pool). Except to say that *Martin* *Scorsese* will win best director for *Gangs*, not because it's a masterpiece, but because he tried so hard, he's *Attention*'s most serious auteur, and he's long overdue. It's also gratifying to see *Talk* to *Her*'s *Patricio* *Almodovar* nominated for director. *Talk* to *Her* and *Y Tu Mamá Tambien* were arguably the year's two best movies. After *Spain* and *Mexico* failed to consider them for best foreign-language film, Academy voters found room for them in the writing and directing categories.

Canadians, meanwhile, can take pride in Verdugo's nomination, even if her film is an American production shot in Toronto but set in Chicago. Then again, *Chicago*, was shot in Toronto, too. The *Carnegie* *halls* of the Oscars could turn out to be *Michael* *Moore*, *Academy*'s honorary Canadian, *Awful* *ing* for *Columbus*, *Moore*'s dad, *Funny* and *provocative* *stare* of *gun-crazy* *America*, is nominated for best documentary. It was *Iranian* and co-produced by *Canadians*. And it's rife with Canadian content, even if *Moore* does concentrate our peaceable kingdom as a foil for *American* violence. Until now, Oscar has snubbed *Moore*'s juvenile filmmaking, even though *River* *Q* *He* and *The Big One* broke box-office records for documentaries. But *Awful* for *Columbus* has struck a chord among Hollywood liberals. And if *Moore* gets to make an acceptance speech in the thick of a war with Iraq, look out. The Oscars will be on red alert. ■



Kidman and Moore often lead a strong field of women on the stage, while Day-Lewis goes ballistic as Bill the Butcher

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CLOSINGNOTES



MUSIC | 62

Some new twists on old sounds
Singer-songwriter
Alicia Winters is
taking country
music in Canada
to a brand new level



PEOPLE | 60

Telling stories in a quietly majestic
Senior last April, when she won the title of
Miss Indian World, Tia Sarah of Ontario's
Six Nations Reserve has become
a leading native role-playing stereotypes
by highlighting the many success stories
of Aboriginal youth across the country.



Craft | The fine art—and business—of bookbinding

Automated mass production is how a lot of things get made, including, soon certainly, books. But the centuries-old tradition of binding volumes by hand has hung on, and a modern-day audience who wants personalized wedding albums, name books, diaries or portfolios. A large number are made in developing countries and are found in big-name retail outlets in Canada, a mark of their growing popularity. Leather-wrapped, hand-bound photo albums sell in department stores for \$175, and some bookshops carry \$19 hard-stitched, paper-thick sleek notebooks with and-there, archival paper. All are tactile folios that offer a refuge of sorts from an electronic age marked by photo hard-holdings and electronic books, says Reg Beatty, a Toronto bookbinder.



Positioning an
ancient skill, Beatty
embraces a future
with "electronic ink"

DETAILS

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"We're making something," Beatty says, "that will last more than 100 years." Beatty, 44, and Ludlow, 38, the vision of the ancient craft includes a modern twist. Today, people occasionally create in-shed tracks—knows simply as Taylor, Marlowe, Beatty—with self-printed family histories that they want bound. Beatty sees the pages by hand and does leather work to produce the covers. And he recognizes a day when his talents may need web cutting-edge science. He points to U.S. researchers developing "electronic ink"—specifically coated paper on which words appear when a camera is applied. If perfected, readers may one day own just a single book with blank pages. After one story is read, another could be downloaded. Owners of such high-tech books may want to personalize them with custom binding. "That," says Beatty, "is my fantasy future."

—DANIELA KRAMER/STRA

Listings |

Show of pride

The Luminé Project
Until March 2
After interviewing
more than 200
residents of Luminé,
Wyo., playwright
Nicolas Kaufman
recreated this piece,
currently on stage
at ArtWord Theatre.
About the brutal
murder of gay
college student
Matthew Shepard
Toronto

Kamloops Cowboy
Festival
March 6-9

The Irish-Columbia
Country Heritage
Society celebrates all
things cowboy at the
Cowboy Temple—local
business and poetry
to Irish music and,
of course, Indians.
Kamloops, B.C.
Home and Backus
show

Feb. 26 to March 2
Sarah Richardson,
host of HGTV's *Design
Service*, and *Viva Vip*
MTV's *Viva Vip*
Society will be among
the celebrities to
attend this exclusive
and partying event
at the Roundup
Cadeau and Canal
Calgary

My Country
Until March 2
Gracie's students from
Francis B. Scheraga
attended a show about
Canada using the
permanently collected
at the Confederation
Centre of the Arts,
including works such
as Frederick B. Taylor's
The House That and
Andy Warhol's Wayne
Graville 95.
Ottawa/Ontario



People | An honest win

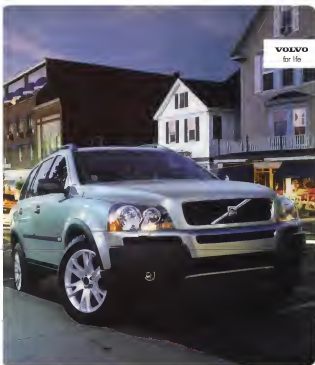
When *The Seattle Times* learned she would have to speak to a crowd of several thousand as contestant at last year's Miss Indian World pageant in Albuquerque, N.M., she nearly fled. "I got so nervous, I wanted to hide," says Smith, 22, a first-year student at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont. But Smith triumphed over her fear. She not only captured the crown from among 24 contestants (*Miss Alaska* from Oy-Go-First Nations in Seward Lake, Ont., was the second runner-up), she took top honors in the interview and public speaking categories. "They asked me an easy question: what qualities do I possess that

would make me a good Miss Indian World," explains Smith, the second Canadian to win Miss Indian World since its inception in 1965. "I said honesty. If I don't know anything about an issue, I won't pretend that I do."

Since the competition last April at the annual Gathering of Nations, one of the largest powwows and cultural fairs in North America, Smith has spoken at as many as seven events about a topic close to her heart—Aboriginal youth. "The media portrays us very poorly—stereotyping, drinking too much and not finishing school," says Smith, a member of the Cayuga Wolf Clan at Oneida's Six Nations Reserve. "I tell the stories of the youth who are working toward becoming lawyers, doctors, politicians and professionals."

Smith became Miss Indian World by saying she'd never pretend to know what she didn't.

Smith, an accomplished lacrosse player who is currently a defender on her university team, hopes to return to her reserve to work with children as a teacher or as a retired professor. "Miss Indian World has given me the opportunity to meet people from other cultures," she says. "What I've come to realize is that while people may come from different traditions, they all have the same hopes and dreams. I want to share this with my community. I want the children to grow up knowing their heritage but also recognizing that they can do and be anything they want." **SUSAN McCLELLAND**



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Music | The soulful country sounds of Aaron Wilkinson

On stage in a dark, cavernous bar, Aaron Wilkinson strums his guitar and wails passionately into the mic. He adjusts his cowboy hat and strums a few chords. The downtown Toronto Thursday night crowd barely registers his presence. However, word in the first few minutes of playing his lead of melody, Wilkinson has floor-slammed. By the end of his 40-minute set, the room is utterly silent, caught in the beautiful soul and evocative lyrics of this Dublin-born, Toronto-based singer-songwriter.

Wilkinson—much more relaxed, with a sunny beard and brown eyes—is unbothered talking about himself. Here are the basics: born '82, he is the son of Colin, the well-known Phoenix of the Opera singing, he studied in song writing while attending university in Ireland for a degree in architecture, when he realised that school was "stifling, about as polished and as close to reality" he left in focus

on music, six years ago, after Dublin's house scene grew into a mess of chaos, he left for his parents in Canada. "Give me word to be U2 in Ireland," he explains.

On the subject of his music, he is both animal and uncompromising. "I treat songwriting as a job, writing more than eight hours a day," says Wilkinson, who, on Feb. 28, joins his father in Ray Thomson Hall as noise misery for their preferred chairman. Colin studies at the University of Toronto, the Casey House Foundation, and AIDS relief projects in Africa. "I'm also an insomniac. It helps me with songwriting because I am half dazed all the time." The results are repetitive, dark, soulful and funny. Wilkinson's country tunes are taking their toll on a new director. Currently recording his second album, he is a dear where he's head of "I'd like to be independent, want my own songs and pay my way." **AMY CRAWFORD**

"I'm also an insomniac. It helps me with songwriting because I am half dazed all the time."

Books | The Kursk tragedy

On Aug. 12, 2000, two accidental explosions tore through the submarine Kursk, the 34-billion-ruble of Russia's sea-going nuclear deterrent, immediately killing 115 of its 118 crew members. But it's the horrific tale of the 23 men who initially survived the blast that is at the heart of the Kursk tragedy, and of Robert Gilbert's superb account of it, *A Time to Die* (Random House). Gilbert, a Washington bureau chief for Britain's ITN TV network, was stationed in Moscow from 1980 to 1992. His contacts there got him into the Kursk Peninsula, the closely guarded home of the Northern Fleet, and introduced him to key Kursk members. "Some of them were people who had counted the number of oxygen-producing kits that had been used." That unspecified number was high enough to prove, the author says, that the 23 men had survived, trapped on the sea floor, as long as three days before succumbing to rising carbon dioxide levels and a flash fire.

That recent account has been flexible. But the Russian navy, starved of funds during the post-Communist era, lacked the equipment and skills possessed by Western navies and private companies. More records are inaccessible. Did the war waged within the highest military and civilizational of newly elected president Vladimir Putin's government, between a unique desire to help the trapped men and Russian pride and paranoia. The security service argued that others had died before to protect state secrets, and that of the entire crew had to perish to keep the motherland's most important submarine safe from ageing foreign eyes.

To be a: At the time Wilkinson was finally sought and brought to the scene nine days later, it was far too late. A piece in it is a familiar story—governments that the world over have often sacrificed their own men for pride that actually—and it is both sad and compellingly told. **DEAN KELLY**

More grief is superb account of the disaster



Books | Compassion and altruism amid the horror

In invasion of 1941, Maria Gilbert, the distinguished British historian and biographer of Winston Churchill, was arrested by a precision of Jewish manners headed for a Danish cemetery. It turned out, in Gilbert's words in *The Righteous* (Key Porter), that he had stumbled across the fate of Oscar Schindler, a German who had helped save the lives of 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust. Since then Gilbert has been as involved as had Schindler, Israel's Holocaust museum, as the stories of families who risked their lives to aid Jews. Even in 200 pages, *The Righteous* can tell only a fraction of their stories—Yad Vashem honours almost 20,000. But it simply follows one brief account with another. Gilbert has written a hymn and moving book. It took months to compile his list of names in Second World War Europe—the Holocaust included hundreds for dying in—and the thousands saved just outside the prison's perimeter. But Yad Vashem and Gilbert are right to cast a light on those who risked all to do the right thing.



BESTSELLERS

Fiction

1. THE GARDEN OF EPHRAIM , Michael Chabon (1)	1
2. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (2)	2
3. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (3)	3
4. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (4)	4
5. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (5)	5
6. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (6)	6
7. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (7)	7
8. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (8)	8
9. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (9)	9
10. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (10)	10

Non-fiction

1. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (1)	1
2. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (2)	2
3. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (3)	3
4. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (4)	4
5. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (5)	5
6. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (6)	6
7. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (7)	7
8. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (8)	8
9. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (9)	9
10. THE KICKER , Michael Chabon (10)	10

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